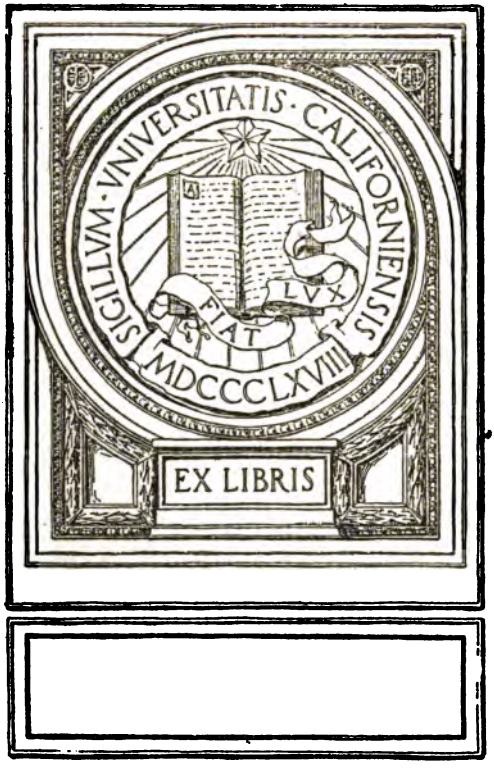
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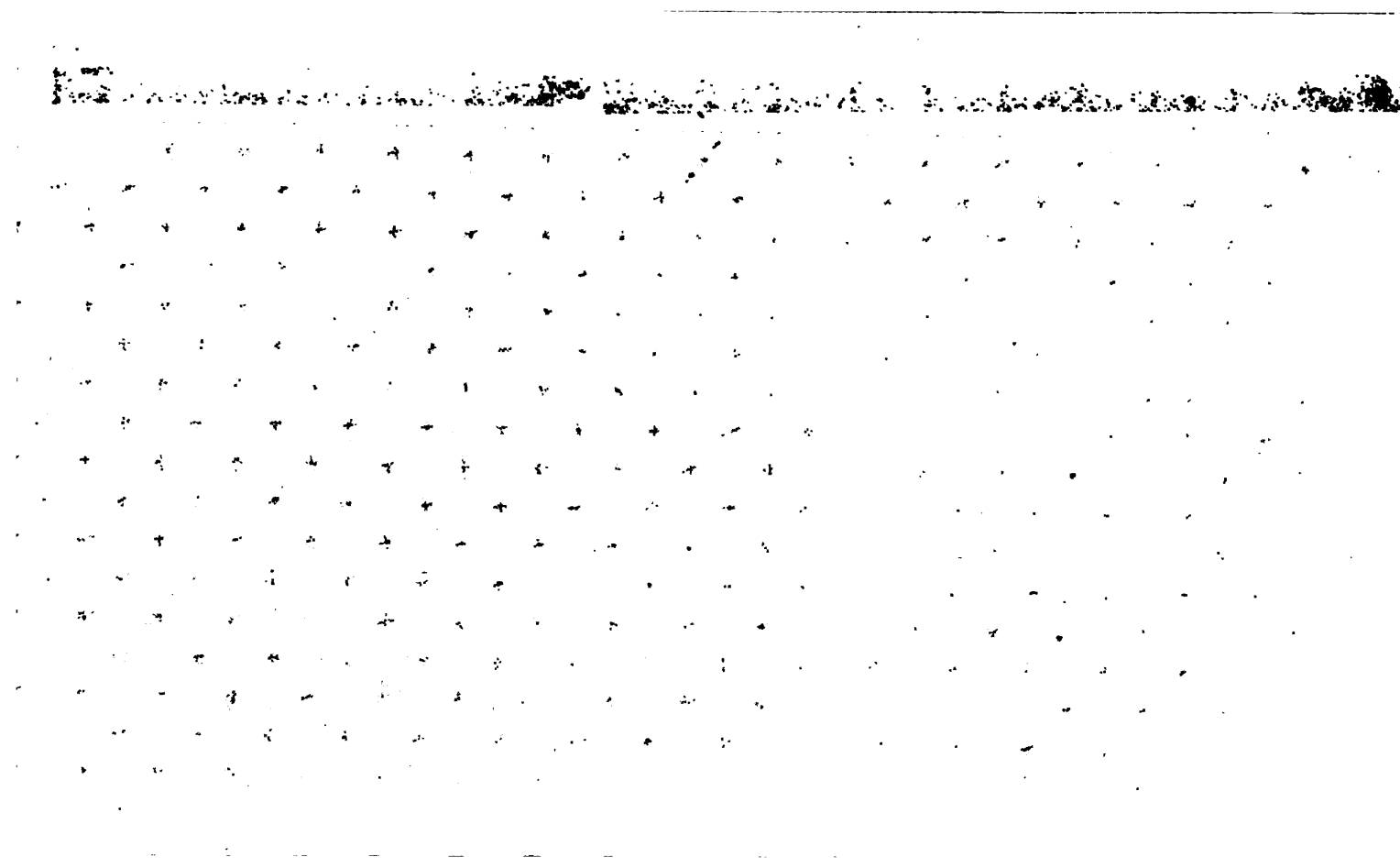

THE

HISTORY

OF

ADULT EDUCATION,

IN WHICH IS COMPRISED

A FULL AND COMPLETE HISTORY

OF THE

MECHANICS' AND LITERARY INSTITUTIONS,

ATHENÆUMS,

PHILOSOPHICAL, MENTAL AND CHRISTIAN IMPROVEMENT SOCIETIES, LITERARY UNIONS, SCHOOLS OF DESIGN, ETC., OF GREAT BRITIAN, IRELAND, AMERICA, ETC. ETC.

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LONDON:

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1851.

TO

Edward Baines, Esq.,

PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF THE YORKSHIRE UNION OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS;

THE

TRUE FRIEND

OF

INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS AND ENLIGHTENMENT,

AND THE

ZEALOUS ADVOCATE

OF

MORAL EDUCATION,

THIS WORK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

Prospectus.

THE work contains an exact comprehensive register of the principal changes which have occurred in the management of the Mechanics' and Literary Institutions in the large towns in Great Britain. The history of each Institution is given at length, accompanied with tabular annual returns.

The history of the Educational Societies of the middle classes, and the Adult Poor Schools in an unbroken chain, for upwards of a century, exhibited by statistical details and annual returns, and proving by existing societies, that Mechanics' Institutions were established long prior to their extension and developement by the late Dr. Birkbeck.

The operations of Adult and Benevolent Evening Schools, Village and Farmers' Clubs, Young Men's Reformation and Mental Improvement Societies, &c.

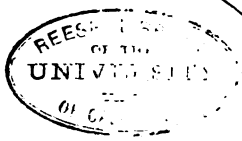
The failure of Public and Itinerating Libraries, as tested and demonstrated after an experience of fifty years in Great Britain.—Decline of Philosophical Institutions in England.

The rise, progress, and present state of Literary and Institutional Unions, Schools of Design, Museums, Factory News Rooms, and Libraries, &c.

On the management of Athenæums, Literary, and Mechanics' Institutions —their extension and present tendency—new features—the necessity for internal improvement and general developement. The Mechanics' Institutions in all quarters of the world.

A Tabular return of all the Institutions in Great Britain, Ireland, &c. The present number of Members, extent of Library, and their educational operations. Name of the Secretary, &c., &c.

PREFACE.



THE unexampled efforts now making in every part of the kingdom for the intellectual and physical improvement of the lower classes of the community, distinguish the present, as the age of philanthropy and good-will to all men. The middle classes vie with the rich in promoting the great and good-work of education. The brightest minds in literature and science direct their talents to its developement; preparing the ignorant by addresses, by lectures, and by their writings, to receive and understand the great and interesting truths which the Creator unfolds before them. The beloved Sovereign of these realms lends her fair and royal name in behalf of Bazaars, to increase the stores of Institution Libraries. The lawned Divine, and the ermined Duke feel a pleasure in presiding over the festivals of the artizan and the day labourer. The press is prolific with carefully collated proofs of the connection between offences and ignorance, as they appear in the calendar of crime; civic magistrates begin to hold it a duty to take part in all meetings which have for their object, the dissemination of useful knowledge amongst the multitude; the agriculturist is alive to the importance of the allotment system, and institutes Farmers' Clubs; while the manufacturer finds it *profitable* to form schools and factory libraries, to rear amateur bands of musicians amongst his workmen, to encourage frugality by savings' banks, benefit societies, sick clubs, clothes clubs, burial associations, and by occasional tea meetings, at which, he and his family partake, to destroy that barrier between men, which pride and wealth sometimes ungraciously erects.

The rapid increase of adult Educational Institutions, and the attention now bestowed on them, render it important that the public should be placed in possession of such facts as can be collected, to afford, not only a just estimate of the nature and extent of the efforts which have been made, in behalf of adult education, and the effects it has produced, but, also to correct the erroneous statements which have been so frequently reiterated, with regard to the first establishment of Mechanics' Institutions. The evidence which has been produced on the latter point, is easily verified by existing societies, and the only regret to those who record the historical facts is that one (Dr. Birkbeck,) who devoted his life, and sacrificed half his fortune, to advance Mechanics' Institutions is not entitled to enjoy the minor honour of being their originator. From the same cause, Birmingham possesses the

palm which has been awarded to Glasgow, and it is creditable to the "cast iron metropolis," that it invited Dr. Birkbeck to lecture to its inhabitants, before he commenced lecturing as Professor of Anderson's Institution.

From the list of Institutions compiled with great care and labour and appended to this work, we are enabled to afford satisfactory evidence of the growth and extent of the Literary and Mechanics' Institutions of the United Kingdom. In England, we have a complete record of 610 Institutions with 102,050 subscribing members, and possessing 691,500 volumes in their libraries. If the smaller Mutual Improvement Societies, Christian and Church of England Institutions and Evening Adult Schools are added to this amount, the aggregate return for England will be 700 Adult Educational Institutions, with 107,000 members.

It is to be regretted that neither Literary or Mechanics' Institutions have obtained permanent success in Wales or in Ireland. It was not until 1830, that a Mechanics' Institution was formed in the principality, and in Ireland no less than fifteen Mechanics' Institutions with the advantages (or disadvantages) of government aid, have met with a premature decay.

The Scottish Mechanics' Institutions are less numerous and less effective than similar societies in England, owing to the practice of closing them entirely during the summer and autumn. From this cause the issues from the libraries are limited, the periodicals are deprived of half their interest, and the attractions of the newspaper are disregarded by members and committees.

The total returns from the Literary and Mechanics' Institutions of the Kingdom at the present time, present the following statistics:—

	No. of Institutes.	Members.	Vols.	News-rooms.
England	610	102050	691500	372
Wales	12	1472	6855	8
Scotland	55	12554	59661	15
Ireland	25	4005	57500	13
	702	120,081	815,516	408

The educational advantages which these Institutions have disseminated in the past year, may be regarded as evidence of the superiority they possess over other means of imparting intellectual instruction to the adult population, and of their claims upon public attention as a means of advancing morality and diminishing crime, by drawing men from those evil resources which the absence of intellectual culture is sure to lead to. The extent to which the intellectual stores and appliances of the Institutions of the United Kingdom have been made available, by the members, after the ordinary business of the day has been performed, may be gathered from the following return:—

	Issues of Books in 1850.	Number of persons attending evening classes.	Number of lectures delivered in 1850.
England	1820748	16020	5034
Wales	16800	280	115
Scotland	154747	1638	481
Ireland	33800	182	210
	2,026,095	18,120	5,840

The universal complaint that Mechanics' Institutions are attended by persons of a higher rank than those for whom they were designed, applies with equal force to the Athenæums and Literary Institutions of the country. It will be found on investigation, that Athenæums have ceased to be the societies of young men, not only the roll of members, but a glance round the news-room will show an assemblage of men of middle age, principals of firms, professional men, managing and confidential clerks, factors, brokers, agents, and wholesale shopkeepers, who form both the directory and the majority of the association. Hence it has been assumed, that the employer and the employed are to be seen side by side perusing alike the newspaper and the review, drawing knowledge from the same fount; but such is not the fact, the clerk turns aside from his employer, either from respect or humility, and when he joins his companions he generally gives utterance to his discontent by an intimation that he shall join the Mechanics', for he will not subscribe to an Institution where "the governor" is present. The same influences are produced in the other Institution, the warehouseman, the packer, the carter, and the mill-hand shun the society of the clerk and the foreman, and they in turn quit the Institution which was established expressly for them. The result is made manifest in the classification of the occupation of members of these societies, but wherefore should the educationist complain, since it only demonstrates the necessity for creating another class of societies, to which the working operative shall alone be admissable. With the increase of population, society has extended and developed itself in new circles, and the requirements of the age, demand for the labouring classes, not only free public libraries, free public news-rooms, free public lectures, but evening classes, free to the half-educated shopboy, and the unlettered apprentice. Mechanics' Institutions, and Literary Societies must be immediately rendered self-supporting; for the donations of the wealthy and benevolent are demanded for higher services.

It is essentially necessary that another attempt should now be made to provide entertainment and instruction for the bulk of the working men and their families, "to whom, as yet, the ray of knowledge has not penetrated,

who form the hard pressed substratum, the rich mine of thought and intelligence, which the mining tool of education has scarcely reached."

Two other causes have operated, to a great extent, in excluding the working classes from Mechanics' Institutions,—the time and trouble of suitably attiring themselves to appear in the company of the middle classes, and the quarterly and annual terms of payment. The first may be obviated by an influx of the fustian jackets, provided the second is corrected by the introduction of a system of weekly payments, and the entertainments prepared are of a character suited to the taste of working men. It has been shown in the chapter on Lyceums that one attempt of this kind has failed, and the causes have been indicated. It will not be difficult to adduce, examples of complete success. The Huddersfield Mechanics' Institution, the Birmingham, and the Liverpool Northern Institution have fully realised the anticipations of their founders. The penny news-rooms of Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, and the Institutions in which *newspapers are issued* to the members, are no unimportant witnesses in this case; nor are the thousand small coffee-houses in London, and temperance refreshment rooms throughout the country, to be omitted in proof that there exists a wide field of useful operation for the philanthropist who has energy to work out, in his own circle, by the means indicated, the elevation of the lower grade of society to light and to real moral life.

Much as we may congratulate ourselves at the useful operations of "the Mechanics" and other middle class Institutions, it would undoubtedly be a source of unmingled pleasure if they could be induced to extend their operations, by branch societies, to supply the chief wants of the actual working population, and they have the means within themselves of furnishing the intellectual food required in smaller societies. Their newspapers and magazines when a month old, their well stocked libraries, and their young men ready to serve as voluntary teachers, or lecturers and participators in discussions, are appliances which should neither be overlooked nor disregarded, when it is remembered the large sums these societies receive as donations, and from the subcriptions of honorary members on the plea of educating the mechanics and working classes of the community.

While we discern circumstances of a political and general nature which are giving to the working classes a greater amount of influence and prominence in society than they have hitherto enjoyed, the demands for their mental and moral instruction became more imperative. The labouring classes must be admitted sharers in that knowledge which is no longer a monopoly, but like the gentle rain from heaven, beautifies creation; they are deserving of greater

exertion, and of further sacrifices than have yet been bestowed on them, by the classes whom they support and obey. The establishment of Free Circulating Libraries, will be regarded as a boon, but the time (we will hope) is not far distant, when every large town in the kingdom, will support from its local rates, its people's college, containing its free circulating library, free news-room, free lectures, and free elementary evening classes. What France, Germany, and Italy have done with regard to free lectures, England may wisely extend to more useful departments. The present age possesses philanthrophists not less generous than those which endowed grammar schools and enriched the London corporate companies, and the year 1851 already affords evidence how readily and voluntarily the men of Manchester have subscribed £30,000 in a few months, on new schemes of education.

Notwithstanding the gratifying reports of moral progress, which indicate the advent of an age of great intellectual improvement, we should fail in our duty, did we not point out the corrective and portentous signs of the times, with reference to the early literary associations. Those Institutions which have adhered to the views of the last half century, are exhausting their capital, and are decaying, the Philosophical Societies are imbecile, and the Mechanics' Institutions which have changed their objects in straining for popularity, by concerts, and ventriloquial entertainments, are involving themselves in debt, or they are rushing (as in Lancashire) into the other extreme of becoming mere day-schools for boys, instead of intellectual seminaries for men. The Athenæums have been paying a heavy penalty for their club and dining principles, and they are wisely repressing these features, and retaining their kitchens as separate establishments, at rentals.

The indications we have enumerated are evidences of a healthy reaction. If the popularity of lectures in some districts has greatly declined, the Casinos which attracted the multitude, are equally failing, and the present moment should be taken to provide the wavering folk with the means of *pleasingly* improving themselves.

Manchester, Salford, and Liverpool, with their new free libraries, will, ere long, rouse the people of Preston to carry out the intention of the bequest of Dr. Sheppard, and convert his library into a great circulating free library for that locality. The inhabitants of Glasgow will one day establish a free library, commencing with Stirling's library, which has been perverted from its original object. The old parochial libraries may be revived and remodelled, and the town's libraries find generous shareholders who will convey their property and interest to the corporate authorities, to open free circulating libraries for the instruction and amusement of the community. It is

highly satisfactory to have proof that the labouring population of the agricultural districts are showing their readiness to avail themselves of such means of mental improvement as may be presented to them. In the north of England, where small itinerating libraries have been formed, the committee of the Union of Mechanics' Institutes, find themselves unable to comply with the demands of the village Institutes; and the same eager desire for reading, is manifesting itself in all the Institutions comprised in the new North-Western Union of the counties of Cornwall and Devon.

It is doubtful whether concerts, dramatic lectures, and great public soirées minister to the welfare of Literary Institutions. They have no doubt a beneficial influence in convincing the public mind that these Institutions have become social necessities; but if they gain popular sympathy they do not appear by their present condition and prospects to have thereby secured *permanent* support. Whenever the directors of these Institutions have relied on their own resources, and displayed the best features of their departments, they have secured a more *permanent* increase of members and enduring success, than from any other line of policy. Knowledge to be accurate can only be attained by systematic study, and no really important result, so far as the thoroughly scientific instruction of our Mechanics' is concerned, can ever be realised without systematic courses of lectures, aided by the establishment of classes for the study of chemistry and mechanical science, yet the directors of Mechanics' Institutions, with a knowledge of this fact, have carefully avoided long courses of teaching on any particular branch of study, and have aimed by novelty and change to secure a wider range of instruction. This policy has led to a very superficial knowledge which "*The Times*," on more than one occasion, has denounced as producing "the conceit and affectation of knowledge," supplying no test, but relying on trust for the truth of all that is advanced. It is, perhaps, in Literary Associations only that there is no machinery beyond a few books, by means of which the facts and principles taught in lectures can be examined. At Edinburgh, and at Liverpool, a return has been made to the system of complete courses of lectures, but they have not been successful, chiefly because they have not been of the character of class lectures. "Classes lead to sound connected knowledge but lectures do not." The system of lecturing pursued at the Universities and Academies, which is accompanied with examinations and requires the taking of notes, is especially adapted for making the auditory complete masters of the subject, by systematically furnishing important facts and producing in due order those elucidatory experiments which the auditor may test at his leisure, but which clear away any apparent difficulties of the subject.

The number of persons attending the evening classes of Literary and Mechanics' Institutions, has considerably declined in the last two years. It would appear, from the returns of 1850, and 1851, that seventy three Institutions have been compelled to suspend all but their Discussion and Language Classes, and in twenty others the Music Classes have been abandoned. The only palliative which can be advanced against this evil is, the large increase of Mutual Improvement Societies, which are forming in the northern and eastern counties of England. It has been evident, for the last seven years, that the elementary instruction classes of the Mechanics' Institutions, have not increased in the same ratio as the other departments of these societies. This arises rather from the manner in which the education is conducted than from the superior intellectual attainments of the present class of members. The system of instruction pursued, appears to have been based on the rule of teaching the largest number with the least possible trouble. The pupil, on entering the Institution, selects the class himself, he is placed, mechanically, at the desk, before his slate or copy-book, and, from the effects of the discipline, fitted rather for children than for men; he soon looses all interest in the study which led him to sacrifice his leisure in the attainment of solid education. Finding no interest is shown in his progress, he occasionally absents himself, and, finally, retires from the Institution, to waste his evenings, or to enrol himself in some mutual improvement society, where he finds companionship, and regains his desire for knowledge. In the meantime the classes of the Mechanics' Institute decline in numbers, and the committees are summoned to deplore what they conceive to be the apathy of the young men.

It has been usual, in most societies, for the encouragement of the arts, to give out prize essays and to bestow premiums on the authors of those which possess the greatest merit, and they have generally been attended with good effects in rousing the mind to patient and persevering attention to a particular subject, and in exciting the spirit of emulation. When the premiums distributed in this way partake of the character of medals, they are open to two objections, first in being too expensive, and secondly in being mere honorary rewards, which are of no particular use to their possessor. The best and most useful acknowledgment of merit is a certificate or diploma, which can be shown as a testimonial of diligence and character. In this form the certificates issued by the Directors of the Liverpool Mechanics' Institution, and the Edinburgh School of Arts, have been of essential service to the pupils instructed in those Institutions.

The large amount of fluctuation in the roll of members, is one of the

serious evils with which these Institutions have to contend. Between four and five hundred members retire annually from the Manchester, the Leeds, and the Liverpool Mechanics' Institutions, their places being filled by others, who in their turn, leave the societies with the most perfect indifference, for longer or shorter periods. The Manchester and the Glasgow Athenæums change their members to a still greater extent, which can only be partially checked by a well regulated system of collecting and canvassing. The same plan has been tried in Manchester to obtain the co-operation of the working classes, and on one occasion, a plain statement of the advantages offered by the Mechanics' Institution, was placed in all the mills and workshops in the town. Twenty thousand circulars, addressed to each person by name, were thus distributed; and, although it was followed up by a personal canvass, it failed to attach even fifty of the "fustian jackets" to the Institution.

Every year has its list of new, as well as of suspended, Institutions; but 1849 and 1850 exhibit a larger increase, in the number of new societies, than any period since 1844. The present year, (1851,) has hitherto done little in increasing the list.

The average rate of subscription to Mechanics' Institutions is exceedingly low. Sixpence and one shilling per month for junior and senior members is the minimum point of efficient working.

There can be no doubt that the providing of means for communicating knowledge, like every other effort of benevolence, requires judicious guidance. This is strikingly apparent in our Athenæums and middle class Institutions, and it is evident that we must not rest contented with establishing Mechanics' Institutions on a solid basis, with all the necessary appliances of a news and reading-room, library, classes and lectures, without considering it both a duty and a care to continue our assistance, that we may test the value and efficiency of our plans, by meeting the ever varying requirements of the age.

Two extreme and injudicious courses appear to have been followed by the Mechanics' Institutions of the United Kingdom in the last seven years, and it is scarcely possible to ascertain which has proved the more deplorable in its failure. Those Institutions which have adhered to their original scheme, rejecting novels from the library and newspapers from the reading-room have, for the most part, become extinct, or as in Scotland existing only for a few months in the year in sluggish action, while their officers declaim at the apathy of the working classes. Others have been led into unhealthy excitement by weekly lectures, frequent concerts, ventriloquism, and Shaksperian readings, directing their chief energies

into a wrong channel and involving the societies in debt and difficulty.

It is essential, for the welfare of these Institutions, that there should be some greater check upon the speculative tendencies of directors than the mere annual meeting on retirement from office. There are many societies from which the most influential, long continued, and active members of committee have seceded, in consequence of finding themselves frequently in ineffective opposition upon questions involving an increased expenditure on light and frivolous attractions — whether of books, papers, lectures, or musical entertainments — in order that many might be allured, for a single half-year or quarter, to enrol themselves as members. One mode of effecting this object is suggested in the publication of a quarterly or half-yearly statement of receipts, expenditure, and *liabilities*, posted in the reading-room, together with a similar statement upon estimate for the ensuing term. For the satisfaction of the subscribing members of these Institutions, the universal custom has been for the members to appoint auditors to examine and authenticate the accounts of each society. The *duty* of these officers is, without doubt, to exercise a wholesome check upon the expenditure during their full term of office; but, in practice, their task is generally confined to attaching a signature to a balance sheet on the eve of the annual meeting. A careful examination of the operations of these societies, of penny news-rooms, and the great metropolitan circulating libraries, afford strong presumptive evidence that the time is not far distant, when intellectual Institutions will be established and carried on by private energy and speculation, and with a greater success than they have yet exhibited. Donations and private influences do not, in the aggregate, exceed the value of individual zeal and enterprize. *Efficient* management cannot be more costly than at present, and the storing of books of an ephemeral character, presents no equivalent to the library, which may be rendered ever new by frequent sales and exchanges of stock. The voluntary principle, forming the base upon which these Institutions rest and prosper, will exert greater freedom, when intellectual stores are offered, like the newspaper and the penny periodical, unbiased, to the mental customer.

The history of the formation and development of Mechanics' and Literary Institutions, in every quarter of the world, has now its annals; and it cannot fail to interest every friend of civilization to observe the extraordinary developement of these peoples' seminaries in the remote regions of the earth. The humble temple of knowledge rears its head adjacent to the abode of the New Zealander and the Sandwich Islander. In the spot where the great circumnavigator of the globe was destroyed by a cannibal race, an Athenæum

is now established. In the golden, yet uncongenial regions of California, the Mechanics' Institute is located amidst iron houses, and coarse tents. In the home of the African, at the Cape, and at Port Natal, near the haunts of Kaffir, the Literary Association has found a resting-place. Under India's burning sun, the Mechanics' Institute finds friends and members. In Van-Dieman's Land, the Athenæum has its well-built local habitation; and in Australia, the Mechanics' Institute receives ample funds from the government, and possesses a well-filled roll of members.

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ADULT EDUCATION.

"THE ILLITERATE ARE EVER CHILDREN."—*Bulwer.*

THE first movement in adult as in infant education was sanctified by that important object, the dissemination of religious truth, but as success spread with its development, so did religious fervour proportionably diminish. Sunday schools extended their sphere of usefulness, step by step, until instruction in writing and arithmetic became part of the general system, although some religious bodies, fearful of piloting their several educational charges into seas of thought, whose limits were undefined, steered their course along the prescribed tract, adopting the narrow guage of instruction, and excluding penmanship as an accomplishment purely secular, and of trifling import.

The exact period in the last century when adults were first admitted as pupils into the "English Charity Schools" cannot be ascertained, though it is certain several entered the "Welsh Circulating Schools" as early as the year 1740, in order to obtain the means of reading the Welsh Bible. The pupils attending these schools were of all ages. In numberless instances, parents accompanied their own children to the school during its continuance in the district, and many even of sixty years of age, in their anxiety to read the Scriptures in their native Welsh, presented themselves daily to receive the lessons imparted. The number of persons taught to read in these Circulating Schools in twenty-four years, viz,—from 1737 to 1760, amounted to 150,212; and although

there does not appear to have been any record preserved distinguishing the adults from the children, there is sufficient data to prove that in some districts the older people formed *two-thirds* of the numbers in attendance.

In 1754 the Reverend B. Morgans, Vicar of Trelach, near Monmouth, had a school in his parish in which there were one hundred scholars, of whom five were far advanced in years, who came with their little children to be taught to read the New Testament.

The Reverend John Davis, of Nantglyn, in writing some time before his death an account of the state of North Wales in his youth, says: "That from the years 1780 to 1790, the people were sitting in pagan darkness and ignorance, and all, great and small, lying in wickedness. Few went to the churches, or anywhere else, to worship God; all parts of our country were full of every species of sports on the Sabbath days; others in the taverns drinking immoderately, dancing and singing to the harp. Interludes (a kind of rustic drama,) were then in high esteem among the people, they were wont to travel a great way to hear and see them, and they were regularly announced by the parish clerk in the churches after the service; the sports in like manner. There were very few in a parish that could read at all; and those who could, were rather high people who had received some English schooling. Occasionally a bible might be found in a great house, which was kept in a chest or a box, locked up as a charm to keep the house from harm."

Numerous authorities might be cited to show this moral degradation was not confined to the Welsh people, but extended to all the western counties of England. The first school established in Great Britain exclusively for the instruction of adults, was at Bala, a village in Merionethshire, in the year 1811, by the Rev. T. Charles, B.A., Minister of the place, who found there was an aversion on the part of the adults to associate with the children

in their schools. This benevolent man soon saw his experiment of a separate school fully successful at home, while the desire for instruction which it kindled in other villages occasioned various worthy pastors to follow his example. It is related, on the authority of the reverend founder himself, that in a neighbouring Welsh County such was the anxiety of the adult poor to learn, that they "flocked to the Sunday Schools in crowds, and that the shop-keepers could not immediately supply them with an adequate number of spectacles." Schools were opened not only in chapels, but in barns, lent to the labouring poor by the farmers in the summer-time. When thus inconvenienced, the children occupied one portion of the room and the adults the other; and although the progress of the pupils was nearly equal, this admixture of all ages was found to re-act prejudicially upon the elder pupils, and their numbers speedily diminished.

A few months after the establishment of the first adult school in Wales, William Smith, a poor, humble, and almost unlettered individual, in Bristol, occupying no higher rank than that of a door-keeper to a methodist chapel, without the slightest knowledge of what had been done in another province, conceived the idea of instructing the adult poor to read the holy scriptures.

In the month of February 1812, he applied to several influential persons, among whom was Stephen Prust, a distinguished member of the Society of Friends, and one of the committee of the Auxiliary Bible Society, who gave him every encouragement to proceed in his noble enterprize. Thus fortified, he commenced a canvass of the parish of St. Philip and Jacob, taking down the names of those who were desirous of attending a school for persons advanced in years. The first two pupils entered for the first adult school in England were, William Wood, aged sixty-three, and Jane Burrace, aged forty. The gratuitous use of two rooms was almost immediately obtained, and by the aid of persons employed in teaching Charity Schools for children, the establishment opened on March 8, 1812,

with eleven men and ten women, the numbers increasing every week, until the rooms were filled. The order, neatness, and cleanliness of these pupils, their anxiety to learn, and the heartfelt gratitude they evinced for the exertions thus benevolently made for their benefit, proved most gratifying to William Smith and his more wealthy assistants. Encouraged by the success of this new undertaking, he engaged other apartments in the same neighbourhood, for the reception and instruction of the illiterate poor, who were daily applying to him for admission. In his enthusiastic desire to disseminate knowledge and virtue, this poor workman relinquished three shillings weekly from his small wages of eighteen shillings per week, that he might have more leisure to follow out the benevolent dictates of his heart.*

A commencement so satisfactory, led to the formation of "The Bristol Institution for instructing adult persons to read the Holy Scriptures," to which thirty-two gentlemen immediately contributed £14 10s. 6d. Within two months from the opening of the first adult school, the numberof persons learning to read exceeded eighty, these were placed under the direction of six conductors and thirty-two teachers.

William Smith did not himself undertake to conduct either of the schools, or to fill the office of a teacher. He was actively and incessantly employed during almost every hour he could be spared from the duties of that humble station, on which he depended for a maintenance, in using every effort to enlist the most suitable persons he could take the liberty of applying to, as conductors or teachers, and procuring the use of rooms for the reception of fresh applicants, as well as others whom he sought out desirous of the instruction these humble seminaries afforded. By his great and unwearied exertions, with the help of his few acquaintances, within

* The only reward this inestimable man received was from above, he was blessed with length of days and died in the year 1848, in the Dial Alms-houses, Bristol, in peace and hope in his Redeemer.

the space of about thirteen months from the commencement, there were nine schools opened in Bristol for men, and the same number for women.

Two hundred and twenty-two men, and two hundred and thirty-one women (in all 453) were under education at the time of the Society publishing its First Annual Report in April 1813. Before this time the Society had been considerably increased, and ministers as well as others of almost every denomination of christians in Bristol cordially united, and successfully labored to extend the scale of its operations for the present and future benefit of their poor ignorant and neglected fellow-creatures. The efforts of this Society having been attended with considerable success in respect to the progress made by the learners, as well as in many instances in the evident improvement of their moral character, afforded no small degree of encouragement to those who had been employed in this new field of labour, and to the numerous visitors who occasionally came into the schools, either out of curiosity or to gain the requisite information as to the plan of proceeding in establishing similar institutions in other parts of the country.

During the year 1813, additional schools were opened in Bristol and its vicinity; the nine schools for men and the like number for women, had increased to twenty-one schools for men, and twenty-three for women, providing instruction for 540 men, and 708 women, exclusive of forty-nine pupils in two mixed schools, giving a total of 1,297 adult persons receiving instruction in this city. In the same year an adult female school was opened in a building adjoining the Society of Friends' Meeting-house, accommodating sixty to seventy learners, who in addition to reading were instructed in *writing*. This necessary branch of elementary education was not introduced without occasioning considerable uneasiness and alarm in some individuals of the committee on account of its supposed tendency to secularize that day in the week appropriated to religious edification; but after a severe scrutiny

into the working of the school, the utility of the plan, and the facility which it afforded to the learners to read, were so manifest that they unanimously withdrew their objections to its introduction. This decision, highly creditable to the committee, which consisted of ministers and others, of almost every denomination of christians, conveys a lesson, even from that distant period, to two important sects of christians who still refuse to permit the practice of writing in their sabbath schools.

The establishment of adult schools at Bristol led to their formation in the following year at Bath, Ipswich, Plymouth, Salisbury, and Yarmouth, and in various cities in the United States of America.

In the year 1815, there were adult schools in

Bath,	London, the City of
Bristol,	Norwich,
Brislington (Bristol),	Plymouth,
Bungay (Suffolk)	Rangeworthy (Gloucester),
Bury,	Salisbury,
Egbaston (Birmingham	Southwark (London),
High Wycombe (Bucks),	Yarmouth,
Ilfracombe (Devonshire)	New York,
Ipswich	Philadelphia,
Keynsham (Bristol),	Sierra Leone.

From statistical returns made at this period, it was computed there were *one million two hundred thousand* grown persons in England who from the poverty or negligence of their parents, had never been taught to read. As soon as this fact became known, through the medium of the public journals, many benevolent individuals zealously exerted themselves to extend the new system of education amongst the poor, and in the following year 1816, the number of adult persons receiving instruction in England alone, exceeded four thousand :—

BRISTOL,	number of schools for men,		28		
	number of schools for women,		35		
				Total,	63
	admitted in four years: men,		1,539		
	„ „ women,		2,087		
				Total,	3626
	present number in the schools: men		830		
	„ „ women,		1,027		
				Total,	1857
	six other schools in the vicinity			„	160
Bath	number of schools	20	number of scholars	„	654
Ipswich	„ „	4	„ „	„	134
London	„ „	20	„ „	„	556
Norwich	„ „	4	„ „	„	100
Salisbury	„ „	8	„ „	„	300
Yarmouth	„ „	4	„ „	„	70
Birmingham, Plymouth, &c.,		12	„	„	350
		72		Total,	4,181
IRELAND, London Hibernian Society's Schools					1100*
AMERICA, New York: men and women					85
„ people of colour					600
Philadelphia: men and women					120
„ people of colour					374
Total number of persons in adult schools,					6,460

The "City of London Society for the Instruction of Adults," at its establishment in 1816 received the support of the Lord Mayor, the Recorder, and five Aldermen, besides donations to the extent of £127; but its operations were limited owing to the want of persons qualified to undertake the missionary character of proceeding from house to house in search of the neglected poor.

In the year 1814, William Smith, the founder of these schools proceeded by invitation to Bath, where he was instrumental in opening thirteen adult schools. In the second year these were increased to eighteen schools attended by five hundred and eighty

*The number of schools in Ireland, in connection with the London Hibernian Society, in 1816, was three hundred and forty-seven. These were attended by 27,776 pupils, including upwards of one thousand adults. In the following year, 1817-18, the schools had increased to three hundred and ninety-two, and the scholars to 32,516, including 1,250 adults.

learners, exclusive of two schools at Stoke with seventy-five pupils.

Immediately upon its being known in the United States of America that adult schools were in successful operation in England, the "Friends" and "Freemasons" of New York and Philadelphia opened both male and female schools in the centre of those cities, including one in Philadelphia "for men of colour of the African race." On the day on which the latter school was opened one hundred and twelve scholars were received; and within one week the number of men of colour attending, amounted to three hundred and seventy-four. At New York a similar school was subsequently opened, which was attended by one hundred and twenty of the Ethiopian race.

The greater proportion of the learners admitted into the adult schools was found to be persons in the prime of life, not a few ranking among the young, that is, between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four, while the number of those far advanced in life was the smaller section. The beneficial effects of these schools were almost immediately apparent in the diminution of crime. The municipal authorities of Bristol, within two years from the establishment of adult schools, declared, that the number of nocturnal depredations had been reduced one-fourth, attributing the improvement chiefly to these benevolent efforts. Gangs of robbers who infested the roads, three and four miles from Bristol, and who were obstructors of every improvement, and suspicious of every project emanating from religious men, were induced to countenance the establishment of adult schools; and in one instance at Whipper's Hill, their great rendezvous, they contributed towards the erection of an adult school-house in their neighbourhood, not only money, but their labour. With such results before the inhabitants of Bristol, can it be doubted that the importance of undertaking the instruction of the neglected poor, by raising them from a state of mental depravity to that of usefulness in the social scale of being, forced itself on the attention of pious and

benevolent individuals of various denominations? They declared their design was not to proselyte to any particular sect or denomination of christians, or to exercise any party influence, but simply to teach the unlettered poor to read the holy scriptures for themselves. They even made it a rule that no teacher should persuade any of the scholars to go to any particular place of worship, but to leave them to themselves—their judgment and consciences being unfettered and perfectly free. Another regulation prohibited the introduction of tracts or publications without being previously examined and approved by the conductors. The moral effect produced by these schools was not confined to the scholars alone, but created a powerful influence upon those to whom they were related, by consanguinity, as well as upon those with whom they associated. It even extended to the teachers by improving their habits, and cherishing their warmest sympathies for the poor and helpless.

In the success which attended the establishment of adult schools, the strongest evidence is adduced of the general and rapid improvement, which adults are capable of making in sound knowledge. They enter their schools with different feelings from children, who have little conception of the advantages which they are subsequently to derive from what they regard as a task, and have frequently no ideas associated with what they are taught. The adult attends the school from his own desire to learn, and he understands the value of the work in which he is engaged, keeping its end in view, and therefore, assiduously applying the means for its attainment. Difficulties do not overpower, but appear to increase his exertion, hence the surprising progress which is made in the learning to read in the elementary adult school, or in the evening classes of a Mechanics' Institution. The seeming want of memory in adult learners, is another circumstance which claims the attention of teachers; but memory, like the other faculties of the mind, is to be improved by exercise, and it is truly marvellous

to what an extent this faculty has been improved in pupils far advanced in years.

The general business of instruction adopted in the male and female schools, was the reading of a portion of the scriptures by the conductor, the scholars being afterwards questioned upon the reading lessons as to the history or precepts contained in the chapter, this was followed by a monitor being appointed to every six or seven persons to repeat the lesson. At the close of the school another portion was read by the conductor or conductress. The learners were all seated on forms, their teachers standing behind them. In many schools the discipline was very strict, though tempered with great kindness, the scholars not being allowed to speak,—the superintendants to teachers only in a whisper, yet the school steadily increased in numbers, proving they were not dissatisfied with the regulations.

In instancing a few extraordinary cases of the desire for learning to read, manifested by persons in extreme old age, the idea of instructing them may at first excite the redicule of some individuals, but if they reflect on the cruelty of refusing to instruct these aged applicants when they come forward with earnest solicitations for the very purpose of deriving comfort from the perusal of the holy scriptures in the last years of their lives, they will surely be satisfied that this blessing should not be denied to the last or the lowliest. What exhibition is more beautiful than that of the aged poor condescending to sit down and be instructed in the use of letters, by those who are young enough to be their children and even their grand-children?

A little group of female poor attending the adult school opened in Ipswich, in the year 1815, consisted of the following ages, 35, 57, 75 and 94, the ages of the two last prevented their attending the school in the winter-time, but they expressed their intention of returning in the spring should they live so long. One of them at the age of ninety-six voluntarily went to the girls' school to be

improved in reading, and acted occasionally as a teacher. The number of women who had received instruction in the Ipswich schools up to the close of the year 1815, exceeded two hundred and fifty. In the mens' school writing was also taught. At Yarmouth one-half of the scholars both male and female were instructed in writing, the teachers were all young persons. At Salisbury writing was taught two evenings a week to the adult poor. In one of the Bath schools were five women, whose united ages amounted to two hundred and eighty-three.

In the parish of Egbaston, Birmingham, a male adult school was formed by Dr. Johnstone, in 1818, which was continued until the year 1836. It appears from a record which has been preserved, that during a period of seventeen years, only four persons who had received instruction, had applied for parochial relief, and such was the love of order and peace infused into these poor men from the lessons they had received, that in 1830, when incendiary fires were prevalent, they spontaneously came forward, and formed themselves into a band of police, for the protection of the property of the neighbouring farmers.

The establishment of adult schools in Ireland by aid of the "London Hibernian Society," was productive of incalculable benefit as they acted with decided effect upon the spirit and purposes of political disaffection. To use the simple but significant observation of on old man,—"They kept the boys away from bad work." In the year 1823 the number of adults under instruction in Ireland was 9,160; and in the winter session of 1824, no less than 10,117 adult pupils were received into the schools of this association.

In the fifth Report (1816,) of the society in Edinburgh, for the support of the Gaelic Schools in the Highlands, and Islands of Scotland, in giving an account of the school at Glencalvie, by Alexander Macbean, he records the following most remarkable circumstance :—

"It was not in my power, till yesterday, to visit the school at Glencalvie since my return home. The snow lay deep in the Strath, the rivers were frozen over, and the thaw swelled them to such a height, that it was impossible for a horse to cross. Yesterday however, I accomplised my purpose; and my pains were amply compensated by the progress I witnessed in the school since my former visitation of it. A house crowded with sixty scholars all ages—from the Glencalvie veteran, Iverach, now in his hundred and seventeenth year, to, literally speaking, the infant in the cradle, for the mother of the infant is one of the scholars, and such was her ardour to learn that she brought the child and cradle to school. Most of the inhabitants of the surrounding hamlets also attended, and every tongue was employed in giving thanks to God, and the instruments he raised to send them a blessing of such magnitude."

It has been shown that in the year 1815 no less than twenty towns in England, besides several in Scotland had established adult schools. These continued steadily to increase in numbers and extent, each religious denomination exerting itself in the good work, until from the general improvement of the people effected by these and other means, new wants were created, and the Mechanics' and Apprentices' Libraries, and Mechanics' Institutions sprung up in various parts of Britain, offering a new field for the working man to extend the little knowledge he had acquired in these humble seminaries. The adult schools even for instruction in reading were still universally required, and another cycle of ten years supplied fresh evidence of their continued value, for although one hundred schools had been relinquished in the city and neighbourhood of Bristol alone, during the first twenty years of their establishment, the committee of the adult society declared in 1835, there was "so much to gratify, that even the momentary prevalence of discouragement was effectually prevented."

The following table exhibits at one view the state of the Bristol Adult Schools during a period of twenty years, from 1812 to 1832:

SCHOOLS FOR MEN.

No.	PLACES.	Teachers.	When Opened or Re-opened	Number Admitted.	Number in each School, 1832.	Number brought to read in the Testament
1	Temple Street	6	1812	330	14	66
2	Anchor Lane	3	,,	200	7	54
3	Bread Street	7	,,	312	32	77
4	Balloon Hill	3	1813	156	18	46
5	Welsh Chapel	5	1815	192	15	101
6	Gloucester Lane	19	1825	418	122	94
7	Bridewell Prison	3	1826	211	8	6
8	St. Peter's Hospital	1	,,	68	4	1
9	Prince's Buildings	14	,,	109	52	51
10	Hanham	2	1828	50	15	18
11	Clay Hill	3	1830	100	16	22
12	Nag's Head Hill	4		25	12	2
13	Bedminster	11	,,	97	54	29
14	Kingswood Hill	4	1831	24	6	6
15	The Dungs	7	,,	41	30	7
		92		2333	405	580

SCHOOLS FOR WOMEN.

No.	NAMES.	Teachers.	When Opened or Re-opened	Number Admitted.	Number in each School. 1832.	Number brought to read the Testament
1	Lewin's Mead	1	1812	202	15	110
2	Prince's Buildings	8	,,	304	53	83
3	Rosemary Street	3	1813	325	12	77
4	Temple Street	6	1815	220	29	77
5	Redcliffe Pitt	7	1816	219	20	81
6	Limekiln Lane	2	1817	252	39	54
7	Bridewell Prison	1	1826	188	1	..
8	Gloucester Lane	6	,,	97	21	10
9	St. Peter's Hospital	2	,,	118	14	2
10	Hanham	2	1828	113	19	40
11	Nag's Head Hill	3	1829	31	14	6
12	Bedminster	5	1830	36	9	8
13	Balloon Hill	1	,,	30	10	10
14	Welsh Chapel	4	,,	40	10	3
15	Clay Hill	1	,,	15	7	3
16	Kingswood Hill	4	1831	75	30	12
From 100 Schools relinquished..	Women	56		2265	303	576
	Men	92		2333	405	580
		....		7847	—	1,992
	Grand Total	148		12,445	708	3,148

In 1834 the number of adult schools in Bristol was thirty-six, containing four hundred and eight men, and two hundred and sixty-eight women under instruction.* In 1843 the number of schools was reduced to twelve for men and thirteen for women, or twenty-five schools. The total admissions since their establishment, has been 17,000, of whom 4,000 have been taught to read the word of God. At the present date (October, 1849) the number of schools is ten for males, and eight for females, attended by two hundred men and one hundred and eighty women. The secretary (in November 1848,) speaking of these schools mentions "instances of some who were grossly dishonest before coming to the school, being reclaimed from their vicious and profligate course of life, and becoming not only members but ornaments of christian churches. Two of the greatest hindrances to the extension of the schools have been a degree of *false shame* on the part of those who cannot read, and *Intemperance on the Saturday night*, unfitting them for the quiet duties of the Sabbath, or preventing them from having decent clothing in which to appear among their more provident neighbours."

The number of Adult Schools in Bath at the close of the year 1846, was seven, three for men, attended by seventy scholars, and four schools for women, with an average attendance exceeding one hundred, under the superintendance of Reverend East, Reverend Townsend, and Mrs. Ambs.

* It must be extremely gratifying to the Conductors and Teachers of this Society, to find persons in their humble cottages reading the Bible with meditation and prayer, and thanking God that they ever attended an Adult School. Formerly they spent their Sabbaths in lounging, in walking in the fields for pleasure, in vain conversation, or in public houses; now they attend the public worship of Almighty God, wait at the posts of wisdom's doors, and receive instructions in the way of righteousness. In time past their families were in want, in wretchedness, and disorder; now they have food and raiment, and are taught to be therewith content. And what is better still the voice of praise and thanksgiving is now heard in their tabernacles, and their minds are consoled with the comforts of genuine christianity. It must likewise give delightful sensations to the friends of this Institution to know, that such are the fruits of their bounty in not a few instances; nor can it fail to encourage them to continue their liberal aid, and to use the influence they have with others to assist in extending its beneficial effects.—*Report of the Adult Schools*, 1831.

The Philanthrophic citizens of Bristol have also the honour of establishing the first school for instructing poor labouring men and boys, whose employments during the day, and necessitous circumstances otherwise precluded them from obtaining elementary instruction in their few hours of leisure. The "Benevolent Evening Schools' Society" was established in 1806, and is still in useful operation. In the report for 1808 it defines its sole object to be "affording gratituous instruction to the sons of the labouring poor, who from the nature of their circumstances are obliged to work hard during the day for their subsistence." The first rules required, that two shillings and sixpence should be paid by each child on admission, in instalments or otherwise, which sum was to be returned to him when he was discharged. It does not appear however from the treasurers' reports, that after 1809, more than sixpence was received from each pupil, which sum eventually became an entrance fee. In 1823, the committee finding themselves burthened with an increasing debt to the treasurer, resolved to charge two-pence monthly from each scholar, with sixpence admission fee. Notwithstanding this regulation, the debt to the treasurer steadily increased, until it exceeded in 1839 one hundred pounds. The committee were ultimately compelled to fix the fee at one penny per week from each pupil, which payment has been continued to the present time without materially diminishing the number of scholars. The instruction imparted from the commencement of the schools in 1806, to the present time has been Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. In 1842, the elements of Geography and History were added to the studies.

It does not appear from the records of the society that adults participated largely in the advantages provided for the youth of the poor during the first ten years after the establishment of the school. The retiring committee of 1812 report, that this is the only school of the kind in England, and the committee of 1846 issued an appeal to masters of manufactories to send their servants

workmen, and apprentices, as they were desirous of *extending* the objects of the society. Subsequent reports repeat the anxiety of the managers of the schools to obtain the attendance of poor labouring men; but it does not appear that the adults exceeded the average of one-tenth.

The operations of the Bristol Benevolent Evening School extend over a period of forty-two years, during which seven thousand poor boys and men *who have laboured during the day*, have received instruction, as the following return, compiled with some labour from scarce documents, will show.—

BENEVOLENT EVENING SCHOOLS.

1807 to	Admitted	Left the School	Remaining 31st Decr.	Total No. on the books. each year.
1810 „	424	224	200	424
1811 „	510	434	276	710
1812 „	400	579	97	676
1813 „	297	214	180	394
1814 „	49	167	62	229
1815 „	166	115	113	228
1816 „	200	138	175	313
1817 „	225	269	131	460
1818 „	291	289	133	422
1819 „	99	116	116	232
1820 „	165	173	108	281
1821 „	212	132	188	320
1822 „	231	183	236	419
1823 „	201	254	183	437
1824 „	183	209	157	366
1825 „	119	134	142	276
1826 „	163	142	163	305
1827 „	188	211	140	351
1828 „	128	138	130	268
1829 „	141	128	143	271
1830 „	143	126	160	286
1831 „	140	152	148	300
1832 „	185	219	114	333

1833 „	123	136	101	237
1834 „	138	120	119	239
1835 „	76	59	136	195
1836 „	117	87	166	253
1837 „	128	129	165	294
1838 „	121	125	161	286
1839 „	122	121	162	283
1840 „	164	157	169	326
1841 „	207	201	175	376
1842 „	200	180	195	375
1843 „	178	171	202	373
1844 „	169	200	171	371
1845 „	138	144	165	309
1846 „	155	147	173	320
1847 „	100	114	159	273
1848 „	92	85	166	251
	7,088	6,922	6,080	1,3002

Present number in the School, 1st November, 1849 .....168.

Since the establishment of this school £2,000 have been contributed in small annual subscriptions and donations for its support. Prizes of hats, shoes and hosiery, to the extent of £400 have been distributed among the most meritorious of the scholars, and the school has been carried on at an average annual expenditure of £20 for the master's salary, £20 for rent, and £13 for incidental expenses. Abundant have been the fruits to which the visiting committee of this school have been witnesses; they have seen many youths rise by prudence to permanent employments; others, avoiding their former associates, have devoted their energies to the development of their minds, until, by unwearied diligence, they have become respected tradesmen, influential citizens, and supporters of that asylum from which they first imbibed precepts of never-failing usefulness.

The "Scriptural Knowledge Institution of Bristol" has one adult school connected with it, in which, on the Lord's day afternoon, from March 1834, to November 1840, one hundred and fifty adults

had been instructed. For various reasons, however, especially because the Sabbath afternoon did not afford a sufficient nor suitable time, an entire new arrangement was made at the end of the year 1840. The time for instruction was altered from the Sabbath afternoon to the week evenings, and instead of teaching reading only, they now began to teach writing, forming two distinct classes, one for males, and one for females, receiving instruction for about two hours, on different evenings in the week. The number of adults admitted since July 14th, 1844, amounts to two hundred and sixty-two, and the total number of all the adults who have received instruction since the formation of this Institution one thousand one hundred and forty-six. The number at present on the list of adult scholars is sixty. Though this work has been connected with some expense for candles, books, writing materials, &c., yet the manager has considered it best to give the instruction entirely without payment.

On examining the causes which have led to the decline of the adult schools as originally formed, three important indications appear in the evidence of the committees of these schools in themselves sufficient to undermine their foundations. First, the want of competent teachers, who should in their whole conduct demonstrate to their scholars that they are their sincere friends; to do this, they must exhibit a softness of manner, a patient forbearance to meet the weakness of their capabilities and slowness of comprehension, at the same time, their zeal and perseverance must make them ready to explain what their pupils cannot at once understand; thus they will gain their regard, and so encourage them to overcome all difficulties. Secondly, the error of mixing with children persons of mature age, who, in every station of life, naturally feel reluctant to expose their ignorance and awkwardness before children. A third reason will be found in the objection to teach writing, on account of its being a secular employment. The advantages not only in its assistance in learning to read

and spell, but as an essential feature in the wants of daily life must be convincing reasons, without criticising the deplorable tendency of refusing this advantageous branch of education to the whole mass of the poor. Innumerable cases could be shown where the scholars with scarcely an exception, availed themselves of the opportunity of learning to write as soon as it was offered.

Nearly all the adult schools which were in operation from 1815 to 1818 have long ceased to exist. The London Institutions had a shorter career than others owing rather to the apathy evinced by the labouring population than to their superior intelligence. The schools at Bath, established in 1814, were afterwards connected with the Sunday School Union; 3,461 adults male and female, have been admitted. Of this number 1048 have been taught to read the Scriptures for themselves. At a neighbouring village (Holloway) an adult school has been in operation several years. At Colne a new adult school was opened in 1846, but the number of persons learning to read is very small. A school at Edgbaston, Birmingham, was founded in 1815, and for some years it afforded instruction to half the labouring male population of the district. The ages of the scholars varied from eighteen to seventy years. This school has been given up since 1840; but in the adjoining parish of Christ Church, the Rev. G. Lea has perseveringly continued adult classes of elementary instruction for a period of twenty-two years. At the present time a class of twenty males meets every Sabbath morning from a quarter past nine to twenty minutes past ten o'clock, for reading, and on two evenings in the week for writing. Mrs. Lea, the benevolent incumbent's lady, conducts a reading and sewing class of eighty females, chiefly attended by domestic servants. This lady commands admiration not alone for her goodness, but for the benevolence of her nature, which permits one half of these poor girls to belong to dissenting congregations. Rarely has such goodness and toleration exhibited

itself on the side of the Establishment. There is an excellent library, and a sick fund connected with the school.

There are no adult schools at Manchester. The "Roby Day and Sunday Schools" have evening classes for instruction in Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, Grammar and Drawing, which are attended by one hundred and fifty pupils above thirteen years of age; each paying eight-pence per week. Of this number one hundred consists of working-men employed in mills and in out-door occupations. At the Rev. J. L. Poore's Independent Chapel, Salford, there is a class of thirty young men learning to read. A remarkable feature in this class is the resolution they have passed not to get married until they can furnish a small house: and as an inducement to carry out this caution, the Hon. Teacher, Mr. Morris, agreed to present a piece of calico of the largest and best manufacture to each member of the class on his furnishing a small house or suitable apartments with the necessary domestic requirements, including the wife. The pupils who have carried off this prize during the last few years have been John Yates, Richard Collins, Joseph Grimshaw, and Edward Newton.

There is at present an adult school at Hull, containing sixty-nine pupils, under the superintendence of the Rev. James Sibree, Secretary of the Sunday School Union.

At Romsey, in Hampshire, an adult school was commenced in December, 1848, by the parochial clergy, in which instruction in writing and arithmetic is given gratuituous three evenings weekly. A school for females is also in contemplation.

Classes for the instruction of young persons above eighteen years of age have been opened in some of the ragged schools recently established. A class of this description has been for some time in operation in the Kingsland Road School, London, and many young men eighteen to twenty-two years of age, who could not distinguish one letter from another, are now enabled to read easy lessons.

It is impossible to estimate correctly the amount of instruction which has been provided for the adult poor in Wales during the last half century. Reports of the state of education in the principality have been compiled by government Commissioners and presented to Parliament; but these returns are so meagre, partial, and imperfect, that they cannot be admitted as historical evidence. The number of adult evening schools in nine counties, according to these reports, is one hundred and six, affording instruction to one thousand two hundred and twenty-eight pupils above fifteen years of age. The real number of persons above *eighteen* years of age in schools of this description in Wales exceeds two thousand, and to these may be added upwards of three thousand persons in Sunday Schools learning to read the first chapter of St. John, which is considered the easiest reading lesson in the Scriptures.

The Welsh Sunday Schools are attended by persons of all ages, and combine instruction with devotional exercises. The number of persons at present attending, above fifteen years of age, is upwards of one hundred and twenty thousand. The Education Commissioners estimate them as follows:

	Males	Females	Total
In North Wales.....	32,406	25,604	58,010
In South Wales.....	29,450	24,351	53,801
			111,811

The educational returns from the Highlands of Scotland in 1830 show, that out of 3,000 persons of different ages attending evening schools on the Sabbath, there were upwards of eight hundred adults learning to read the Scriptures, the only lesson-book admitted into the Gaelic Schools. For the last fifteen years there has been a gradual diminution in the number of adult pupils attending the schools of the Gaelic society, at the same time such have been the demands upon the eighty libraries established about a century since by the General Assembly, that the books have

been worn out, and the libraries exhausted. At the present time, 1849, there are sixty Gaelic Schools in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, affording instruction in reading to 2,280 pupils, of which, two hundred and forty-two are persons above twenty years of age. This number is unusually small, owing to the great distress which prevailed last year, obliging not alone adults, but the children, to engage in employments for their bread. The Inspector's Report of these schools, for 1849, has much to interest the philanthropist. In the parish of Creich, Sutherlandshire, there is one scholar in the school seventy years of age, learning to read the gospel of St. John; in the same school there are nineteen other pupils, above twenty years of age. In the school at Evanton, in the parish of Kiltean, there is one man fifty years old, and seven above twenty. In the Quidnish school, a child of five years of age is reading in a class with a mother of a family; and a boy eight years old, who is learning to read the Bible, conducts the family worship at his own home.

On reviewing the operations of that purely elementary section of education which is presented in the history of the adult schools of the United Kingdom, it will be apparent that no perfect estimate can be formed of the number of adults who have attended these humble seminaries from their commencement in 1811; neither is it possible to test with accuracy the number of persons above eighteen years of age who have been taught to read in adult poor schools. As an approximation to exactitude, it may be affirmed, that upwards of thirty thousand of the poor in England have acquired the power of reading the New Testament by the means thus afforded, and the like number in the Irish schools. More than one hundred and eighty thousand persons have learned to read in Welsh Schools; making a total, including Scotland, of not less than two hundred and fifty thousand adult persons taught to read by the aid of these schools of the United Kingdom. The number of adult poor learning to read in England at this time (November,

1849,) is about eight hundred; in Scotland three hundred; in Ireland, four hundred; and in Wales two thousand: amounting in the whole to three thousand five hundred individuals.

The extensive legislative provision made in Denmark, Holland, and Germany, for infant and juvenile education has rendered adult schools almost unnecessary in those countries; but in France and Belgium, where the education of the labouring population has been less regarded, adult schools have been in operation for many years. The number of these schools in Paris in 1834, was twenty-six, affording instruction to one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight individuals. At Brussels an adult female school was established in 1835, in which reading, writing, and spelling have been taught gratuitously for several years, to an average attendance of fifty pupils.

There is no employment more noble, no amusement more virtuous, and no philanthropy more permanently useful, than in raising youth from the lowest scale of human nature to a status in morals and intellect. The spirit which animated the people of Bristol and made them the founders of adult and benevolent evening schools for poor labouring boys and men, led them still further in their great work of elevating the moral condition of mankind. To them belongs the honour of forming one of the first ragged schools in Britain. John Rounds, the poor Portsmouth cobbler, is universally admitted to have been the founder of these benevolent establishments; but his labours were unnoticed and unknown until within the last few years. Bristol has recently re-established ragged schools with great success; but as early as the year 1816, the Rev. Richard Froom, an Independent Minister, adopted an admirable plan for collecting into schools great numbers of the poorest and most ragged children, and even those who had not rags enough to cover them, whose want of clothing rendered them unacceptable in the sabbath school. He considered that suitable boys and girls might easily be found who

knew better than grown persons where to find all the children of their own neighbourhoods; to these selected individuals he offered a shilling per dozen for all the little ragged children they should collect, and persuade to attend the schools. By this means he was instrumental in establishing within a few miles of Bristol, several schools in a short space of time. In one of these he placed as sole mistress, Martha Webster, the daughter of a poor labouring man, a clever little girl eleven years of age, who was educated in a sabbath school. The school was held in her father's cottage, and consisted of seventeen girls and three boys. "She managed it eight or nine months; and although her poor little pupils were all perfectly unacquainted with the alphabet, one half of them in this time were enabled to read in the Testament. She was in the constant practice of reading the Scriptures to the school, and once in every week catechised each scholar. The school was held several evenings in the week. Her kind patron supplied the necessary books and lessons, which was all the expense attending the school, excepting his presenting her with a few articles of apparel. He also paid for the further improvement of the little governess, whom he sent to school to learn writing and the use of figures, to qualify herself for her greater usefuness; she was also employed by her parents in domestic business."

Ann Williams, another girl of the same description, had the management of a school for boys and girls, about half a mile from Mangatsfield; she had eighteen scholars. For one year after it had been opened it went on satisfactorily.

Schools for the instruction of the children of beggars have been for many years in operation in Italy, Belgium, and Paris, and in the Eastern departments of France. At Strasbourg in 1834, there were twenty establishments, affording *free* education to two thousand one hundred and sixty-eight beggars' children.

The decline of female adult schools for evening instruction is

to be deplored as much on account of the domestic servants, as any class of this great community. The evil is not with themselves, for they would rejoice if the means of attending the evening school were permitted. The fact cannot be concealed, that the education of the domestic servant in this country has been grossly neglected. Ladies have not unfrequently been found to confide in the illiterate domestic, believing that one of superior intelligence would prove less obedient, respectful, and trustworthy. The precepts of morality and virtue can neither be too early nor too late instilled into their minds, for when once they have received virtuous cultivation the mistress is benefited in proportion to the extent of their intelligence. The merchant owes much to the intelligence of his clerk; the tradesman to the general knowledge of his assistant; and the housewife has an interest no less important in the modesty and reflection of her domestic.

Notwithstanding the depressive influences which have occasioned the decline of adult schools, there is less reason for regret than would at first appear. A large proportion of these schools have ceased to exist not from failure, but from having to a great extent, answered the object for which they were established. A rising generation has found an increased number of schools, with parents awakening to the importance of education; themselves rising in the scale of intelligence, and desiring a wider circle of knowledge than merely reading one book, although that book is more precious than all the productions of man; and thus shall it continue during this world's existence; each generation rising in genius, and throwing out a more extended circle on the wide ocean of unbodied mind.

ORIGIN OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS.

"If Mechanics' Institutions succeed, and I firmly hope they may, the ancient aristocracy of England will be secure for ages to come. The most useful and numerous body of people in the nation will then judge for themselves, and when properly informed, will judge correctly,"

Byron.

Vast is that human mass of vitality called the world—potent its will—discordant its materials—yet what study can conduce more to its development in civilization than early instruction and attention to its confederations, represented in those elements of social progress, the Mechanics' Institutions? A nation that justly values its labouring population will encourage association of mind, community of thought, ennoblement of nature; it will develope an anti-silent system, and by frequent contact with purity, invest its people with a knowledge of all that is good, and great, in the visible firmament above—the teeming hive around—and the emboweled treasures below: it will exhibit to its humblest member true generosity of mind, giving, but not parting with, the gems of sapience and truth; ever reflecting but loosing none of its light of intelligence.

It is essential to the well-being of society, that associations for mental improvement should be fostered. Individual man lives comparatively a savage life; but placed in a large assemblage of superior minds, he is acted upon by spiritual influences. The faculties are sharpened by the collision of numbers, and the intellect is expanded for good or evil, according to the influences

with which he is surrounded. The schools which take up the business of education suitable to the increasing years of the individual, and supply the craving and imperative demand for something elevating and ennobling, yet withal amusing, are glorious means to that end which enables a man to fill his station in life with honour to himself, and advantage to society—doing duty in whatever state of life it may please the Almighty to place him.

The earliest young men's mutual improvement societies were established in London about the year 1690, and received the countenance and encouragement of Daniel de Foe, Dr. Horneck, and Dr. Kidder. From the miscellaneous writings of the former, it would appear they originated in some private meetings of young men, who were "awakened to a sense of religion and became solicitous for their mutual improvement." Fearful of giving offence, they framed their rules in strict conformity to the Established Church and called themselves "Societies for the Reformation of Manners."

During the reign of James the Second their proceedings were limited to a monthly lecture at St. Clement's Danes; but in the following reign, owing to the countenance and support afforded to them by Dr. Crompton, Bishop of London, and the government, they rapidly extended their operations to the maintenance of the orphan and the fatherless; the relief of indigent persons; the releasement of debtors confined in prison for small sums; and the support of poor scholars at the University. In 1691, Queen Mary issued a proclamation to all Justices of Peace, exhorting and commanding them to suppress profaneness and debauchery. The magistrates distributed copies of the Queen's letter throughout the kingdom, and invited all good christian subjects to give information to them against profane and vicious persons. The societies thus further encouraged, extended their operations and were instrumental in suppressing open markets held on the Sabbath, music houses, gaming houses, and other dwellings of

depravity, and in bringing to justice many thousands for profane swearing, Sabbath-breaking, and drunkenness. It was computed by Bishop Maddock, in 1736, that the number of convictions in London obtained by these societies in half a century, exceeded one hundred thousand; and the number of books distributed by one association exceeded four hundred and forty-four thousand. From the middle of the eighteenth century these societies appear to have been infected with the fanaticism of the times; many of them became societies for religious improvement, while others directed their whole attention to the suppression of vice by entreating and exhorting offenders to abandon their evil courses, and by punishing great numbers, they, by slow, yet sure means, effected a visible improvement in the public morals. At the commencement of the present century, a few of these societies were re-modelled under the more general title of "Society for the Suppression of Vice," and retained the countenance and support of the public, rather from their growing love and ever increasing thirst for knowledge, than in any pecuniary aid extended to them. "Learning is better than house or land," became a proverb with the people—clubs and brotherly societies were formed—the expanding powers of the press in the newspaper produced village as well as town politicians; and ale-house parlours ceased to encourage brutal disputants. The temper of the people was softened, and gradually mutual improvement shone conspicuously above the evil habits which are but too frequently generated in the nightly haunts of the toiling artisan.

First in the chronological order of *existing* societies for moral improvement is the "Reformation Society of Paisley." This institution was established in 1757, with this preamble:—"That as sin is dishonouring to God, everything ought to be done to stay its progress, by prosecuting the vicious of every character, be they blasphemers, swearers, Sabbath-breakers, drunkards, vicious, &c.; and by every habile and legal method

to have each person brought to condign punishment."

In the early career of this society many persons were prosecuted for such crimes as the common law was slow to meddle with, and such as a society well conducted, was enabled to carry out. The payment of five shillings constitutes a full member; but less sums are received as donations. The funds, still at the disposal of the society, amount to upwards of two hundred pounds. For many years a small sum was expended in ministers' fees for preaching an annual sermon on New Year's Day, on the subject of "Reformation of Manners;" but this has been discontinued, and the only recent expenditure is a donation of twenty pounds to a ladies' society, to preserve young female criminals from vice and immorality; and five pounds as a prize for an Essay on the "Profanation of the Sabbath."

The most remote link in the chain of societies established for the dissemination of a knowledge of the arts and sciences among the labouring people, was the "Sunday Society," formed by the teachers in the Sunday schools at Birmingham, in the year 1789, having for its object the instruction of young men in writing and arithmetic, after they ceased to attend the Sunday schools. To these studies were subsequently added geography, book-keeping, and drawing, as well as moral instruction. A branch of this society formed a class for mutual improvement in useful knowledge, assisting each other in the construction of apparatus for illustrating the principles of Mechanics, Hydrostatics, Electricity, Pneumatics, and Astronomy. A few works on scientific subjects were purchased and lent out to read to persons connected with them, upon the payment of a small subscription.

Some of the more intelligent members delivered lectures on Mechanics and other branches of natural philosophy to the working classes, especially those engaged in the foundries and manufactories of the town. One member of the society, Mr. Thomas Clarke, held frequent meetings of these artisans, at his own house,

who were known as the "Cast Iron Philosophers." These men by their meritorious conduct, were also distinguished as the best workmen in the town. Mr. James Luccock, a few years later, delivered a gratuitous course of "Moral Lectures," urging on the workmen the propriety of exercising their minds usefully and profitably. The scientific information thus gratuitously imparted, failed not to create a taste for such pursuits, and led to the formation of a library, having for its object "the dissemination of knowledge by the aid of books among the working classes." This, the first Artisans' library, was established in 1795, and by its rules provided, that any operative might become a member on the payment of one penny per week. The library rapidly increased in extent, and although no record of its issues appears to have been kept, it is certain that at the time of the formation of the London Mechanics' Institution, it possessed 2,000 volumes, many of them out of condition from being so well thumbed by the hard-working operatives. The year following the establishment of the "Birmingham Artisans' Library," the Sunday Society was re-modeled, changing its title to the

BIRMINGHAM BROTHERLY SOCIETY,

and setting forth that its "objects for improvement shall be Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Drawing, Geography, Natural and Civil History, and Morals, or in short, whatever may be generally useful to a manufacturer, or as furnishing principles for active benevolence and integrity." Lectures were delivered by Mr. Thomas Carpenter, and by Mr. James Luccock, who were active and earnest in their endeavours to diffuse a taste for scientific pursuits among the artisans of Birmingham. To these lectures the labouring classes were admitted free, and the society long continued to prosper both as a distinct institution, and by its connection with the Artisans' Library. The varied instruction it

has afforded by lectures, classes, and finally by the library, justly entitle it to be ranked as *the earliest Mechanics' Institution or Society, in Great Britain*, especially as it was established for and by persons engaged in mechanical employments, and has been in active operation for more than half a century. The society is still in existence, and numbers at the present time one hundred and twelve members. Lectures are delivered monthly by members and friends. The annual subscription is two shillings and sixpence per annum, affording free admission to the lectures and the library; or three shillings and sixpence per annum to the library, lectures, and news-room, the latter being supplied with a few newspapers and periodicals. The only peculiarity in the rules is a provision for the exclusion of any member who may habitually neglect public worship.

ANDERSON'S INSTITUTION.

To Dr. John Anderson, Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, has been traced the origin of Mechanics' Institutions in Great Britain. That eminent Philosopher some years before his death, which took place on the 16th January, 1796, gave a separate course of lectures on "Experimental Physics," to which some few persons who happened to be tradesmen and mechanics, were invited; but no

NOTE.—The *Mathematical Society* in Spitalfields has been frequently mentioned as a society similar in character to the Mechanics' Institutions. This is erroneous, the society consisted of persons in the middle ranks of life, and their labours and discussions were confined to the solution of interesting problems in pure and mixed mathematics.

A similar error has arisen with regard to the Mechanics' Class established at the Royal Institution, London, in 1797-8, upon the recommendation of Count Rumford, and under the superintendance of Mr. Webster. This class was simply intended to develope practical mechanical knowledge, and its operations were confined to the erection of improved chimney flues, and the manufacture of models of various patent and other inventions.

steps were taken or appear to have been contemplated by him for affording instruction to the working operative. By his will he bequeathed the greater part of his property, including his philosophical apparatus, his museum and library, for the good of mankind, and the improvement of science in an institution to be denominated "Anderson's University." This University he designed to consist of four colleges, governed by eighty-one trustees, and thirty-six professors. From this remarkable document evincing the most liberal and enlightened views on the subject of education, copious extracts will be found in appendix A.

On the 9th June, 1796, Anderson's University was incorporated and formed into a body-politic by charter or seal of cause, from the magistrates and council of the City of Glasgow. In the same year Dr. Garnett was elected Professor of Natural Philosophy, and continued in that office until his removal to London, in 1799, when Dr. George Birkbeck was appointed his successor. On his commencing his first course of lectures on "Natural and Experimental Philosophy," he found it necessary to prepare a quantity of apparatus, and as no philosophical instrument maker at that time resided in Glasgow, he was obliged to apply to such work-shops as appeared best adapted to meet his wants. By this means he was brought into immediate communication with the operative artisans of Glasgow; "the joiner he visited at his bench, the smith at his forge, the glass-blower at his furnace, and the turner at his lathe." This intercourse discovered to him such evident indications of latent genius in the minds of the workmen, accompanied with so much anxiety for the acquisition of knowledge, that the spontaneous feeling of regret excited by their want of scientific information, was instantly succeeded by the benevolent wish that the means of obtaining this information should be placed within their reach. He saw that no branch of his institution was reserved for the instruction of the working mechanics in those branches of

knowledge which are of especial use in their several employments.

It is a significant fact, and one which does not lessen the merit of that great philanthropist, Dr. Birkbeck, that he had visited Birmingham, and was cognizant of the operations of the "Birmingham Artisans' Library," and the "Brotherly Society," as well as with the Lectures delivered to working-men, by Thomas Carpenter and James Luccock; indeed he was personally acquainted with the latter, and had seen his "Moral Lectures for Working-men," published about this time. The causes which led Dr. Birkbeck to lay open more widely than had been previously contemplated, the portals of philosophy, and to invite artisans of every description to enter them, however scanty their means or obscure their condition, may be more fully described in his own words:—

"Whilst discharging the duties of Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry in Anderson's Institution, at Glasgow, I had frequent opportunities of observing the intelligent curiosity of the 'unwashed artificers,' to whose mechanical skill I was often obliged to have recourse; and on one occasion, in particular, my attention was arrested by the inquisitive countenances of a circle of operatives, who had crowded round a somewhat curious piece of mechanism,* which had been constructed for me in their work-shop. I beheld, through every disadvantage of circumstances and appearance, such strong indications of the existence of the unquenchable spirit, and such emanations from the heaven-lighted lamp of man, that the question was forced upon me—Why are these minds left without the means of obtaining that knowledge which they so ardently desire; and why are the avenues to science barred against them, because they are poor? It was impossible not to determine that the obstacle should be removed; and I therefore resolved to offer them a gratuitous

* A model of the centrifugal pump.

course of Elementary Philosophical Lectures. When the plan was matured, it was mentioned to some of the wise in their generation. They treated it as the dream of youthful enthusiasm, and scarcely condescended to bestow upon it a sneer, for it appeared to them so thoroughly visionary and absurd. They predicted, that if invited the mechanics would not come; that if they did come they would not listen; and if they did listen they would not comprehend. The offer however, was made; they came, they listened, and conquered; conquered that prejudice which would have consigned them to the dominion of interminable ignorance, and would have shut the gates of knowledge against a large and intelligent portion of mankind for ever.'

The prospectus issued by Dr. Birkbeck is an interesting document, and the arguments he adduces apply with equal force to the present time; he says,—"I shall, during the next session, deliver a course of lectures upon the *Mechanical Affections of solid and fluid Bodies*, abounding with experiments, and conducted with the greatest simplicity of expression and familiarity of illustration, solely for persons engaged in the practical exercise of the mechanic arts; men whose situation in early life has precluded the possibility of acquiring even the smallest portion of scientific knowledge, and whose subsequent pursuits, not always affording more than is necessary for their own support and that of their dependent connections, have not enabled them to *purchase* that information which curiosity, too active for penury wholly to repress, or the prevailing bias of their natural genius might prompt them to obtain. I have become convinced that much pleasure would be communicated to the mechanic in the exercise of his art, and that the mental vacancy which follows a cessation from bodily toil would often be agreeably occupied by a few systematic philosophical ideas upon which, at his leisure, he might meditate. It must be acknowledged, too, that greater satisfaction in the execution of machinery must be experienced,

when the uses to which it may be applied, and the principles upon which it operates are well understood, than where the manual part alone is known, the artist remaining entirely ignorant of everything besides; indeed I have lately had frequent opportunities of observing with how much additional alacrity a piece of work has been undertaken when the circumstances were such as I have now stated. Perhaps to some it may appear that the advantages derivable from these lectures will be inconsiderable, or even that they will be disadvantageous, on account of the extent of the subjects which they embrace, and because those to whom they are addressed do not possess the means, or enjoy the opportunities calculated for engrafting upon the elementary truths they learn, the extensive researches of the illustrious philosophers, by whom the boundaries of science have been enlarged. Whatever the arrogance of learning may have advanced in condemnation of superficial knowledge, and however firmly I may be persuaded that the people cannot be profound, I have no hesitation in predicting that vast benefit will accrue to the community by every successful endeavour to diffuse the substance of great works which cannot be perused by the people at large, by making them reach the shop and the hamlet, and converting them from unproductive splendour to useful, though unobserved activity."

The first lecture was attended by seventy-five pupils; the second by two hundred; the third by three hundred; and the fourth by five hundred. This was a greater number than the hall would conveniently hold, and it became necessary to refuse tickets to other applicants who were equally anxious to participate in the benefits afforded. Dr. Birkbeck continued these lectures during two succeeding sessions, the workmen feeling themselves so deeply indebted to the worthy Professor, that at the close of the second course they spontaneously subscribed a sufficient sum to purchase a handsome silver cup, with an appropriate inscription and suitable emblematical devices. This was presented with a

grateful enthusiasm, highly honourable to their nature and enlightenment. During Dr. Birkbeck's absence from Glasgow, the nominal fee of one shilling charged for the second course, was raised to five shillings for the third session; but on his remonstrance it was reduced to two shillings and sixpence. This fact, fully attested by various parties, is indicative of the little sympathy which the then trustees evinced in the noble undertaking of the Professor. In the summer of 1804, Dr. Birkbeck resigned his office in the Institution and removed to London. He was succeeded by Dr. Andrew Ure, who continued the "Mechanics' Class" with a zeal equal to that of his predecessor, and by his exertions a Library was added in 1808, to the original design. The management of this library was entrusted to a committee selected from the members of the "Mechanics' Class," in whom a sense of self-respect and importance was imparting a new spirit into the whole body of pupils, and opening to them the inexhaustible stores of a philosophy which should expand the intellect of the humblest member, investing him with new ideas and higher conceptions of the duties of man, and the unbounded goodness of his Creator.

From 1815 until 1820, the "Mechanics' Class," at the "Anderson's Institution," continued to decrease in numbers; this has been ascribed to the want of attention on the part of the managers, for in 1821, when an effort was made to revive and improve the lecture department, as well as to increase the stores of the library, the Mechanics came forward numerously and devoted a considerable portion of their leisure to the construction of various models. Prosperity once more dawned upon the Institution, until a disagreement took place between the members of the class and the managers of the establishment, which led to the secession of the working-operatives and their formation of an independent association of their own, in 1823, under the title of the "Glasgow Mechanics' Institution." The loss of the mechanics, although not

felt in the succeeding session, soon induced the trustees of the Andersonian Institution to direct their attention to the objects contemplated by the founder, and they formed the establishment into a kind of collegiate school, with distinct pupils for each of the elementary classes. In 1828, the Institution assumed the title of

ANDERSON'S UNIVERSITY.

There were then established a number of new Professorships for instruction in science and the useful arts, and complete courses of lectures and demonstrations in medical science. In 1829 the resources of the school were increased by a donation from James Yeates, Esquire, of a fifth part of the rents of the island of Shuna. In 1830, on the resignation of Dr. Ure, Professor Thomas Graham was appointed to the chair of chemistry, and introduced a new feature of great importance in the shape of Laboratory instructions. On his removal in 1837, Dr. Gregory, Professor of Chemistry in the College of Edinburgh, held the chair of chemistry in this Institution until 1839, when he was succeeded by Dr. Penny, the present Teacher.

The Institution possesses valuable Philosophical Apparatus, and a highly interesting collection of minerals, geological specimens, and other objects of natural history. The average number of students attending the various classes is about thirteen hundred; and it is not too much to say that, as a seminary, it has been productive of a large amount of good to the community. About one thousand pounds have been subscribed by various friends of the Institution, but the heavy expense of purchasing the present buildings, fitting them up, furnishing, and keeping them in suitable repair, has involved the establishment in a debt of from five to six thousand pounds, which remains as a burden on the building. The classes in operation in the establishment consist of

Natural Philosophy,
Chemistry,
Mathematics,
Algebra, Arithmetic,
Writing,
Book-keeping,
Grammar and Geography,
French,
Drawing,
Elocution.
Principles and Practice of Surgery,
Practical Chemistry,
Midwifery,
Practice of Medicine and Anatomy,
Materia Medica.

These classes are self-supporting, and to the masters entirely speculative, in the remuneration arising from small fees, and the advantage of titles, if not honours, to the adventurous teachers. The Institution comprises a series of apartments which, of late years, have been let as class-rooms to persons willing to undertake some branch of education. The hiring of a room is subject to two conditions: first, the payment of a considerable annual rent; and secondly, the approval of the teacher's qualifications by the committee. These arrangements completed, the teacher becomes entitled to style himself Professor of the University, and to issue such placards as may attract pupils *

Timothy Claxton, the author of an excellent little work, "Hints to Mechanics," says, in June, 1817, when residing in London he applied for admission to a Philosophical Society, but upon failure for want of friends to secure his nomination and election, he issued a circular proposing the formation of a society of ingenious working mechanics, having for its object the study and improvement of the arts of this kingdom, and to secure, by a moderate subscription, a library of books chiefly of a scientific character, as well as to form a repository of plans, models of machinery, and

* Without imputing blame to the Teachers for availing themselves of the titles conferred by the occupancy above alluded to, it is certainly ridiculous that any committee of gentlemen, as talented as the Directors of this Institution, should encourage the parade of titles which, in the Scottish Western Metropolis, belong exclusively to the Professors of that noble and venerable Institution, the University of Glasgow.

other works of art. His prospectus stated, that "such a society would afford both rational and useful amusement, by attending once a week to hear a lecture on some useful branch of science, or the discussion of some question on mechanical or philosophical pursuits. It would create in us a mode of passing our leisure time in a way which is much preferable to what is already practised by too many; it would make us better members of society; better for ourselves, our employers, and consequently to our families." In the month of August, 1817, the proposed society was formed, with the title of *The Mechanical Institution*, and continued until the year 1820, when the founder left his country to reside in Russia. The meetings were held weekly; first in Brook's Market; then at the Compasses, High Holborn; and lastly at Claxton's house, in Little Sutton Street, Clerkenwell. Lectures were delivered, and subjects relating to the arts and sciences discussed.

In the month of April, 1821, the first Mechanics' Institution in Scotland, was established at Edinburgh. This society,

THE EDINBURGH SCHOOL OF ARTS,

was formed for the express object of affording instruction to the labouring classes. Its operations during the first year were confined to the delivery of an address by the Secretary, Leonard Horner, Esquire, and two complete courses of lectures on Chemistry and on Mechanical Philosophy. The Institution, although formed and patronized by the wealthy citizens of the Scottish metropolis, yet found immediate supporters in the humbler classes. Within one month from the commencement of the lectures no less than four hundred and eighty-two members were enrolled, at a subscription of fifteen shillings per annum, and it became necessary, from the want of accommodation, to reject further applicants. A course of lectures on the Veterinary Art

was also successfully undertaken, and received the constant attention of twenty pupils. In the following year, 1822, a library was formed, from which the members were allowed to receive books without an increase being made in the terms of subscription. In this session the number of members amounted to three hundred and sixty-six, the greater part of whom attended the lectures on "Chemistry as applied to the Arts." The lectures on the Principles of Mechanics and their application to the Arts proved also attractive. A gratuitous course on Farriery met with an average attendance of sixty-five students; and a gratuituous course on Architecture received the constant attention of one hundred and fifty persons. The lectures on Mechanics led to a gratifying result. Some of the students, feeling their want of mathematical knowledge, formed themselves into a class under the management of a Joiner, who was a member: this person taught them, gratuitously, the elements of Geometry and the higher branches of Arithmetic. Thirty students met once a week for geometry, and once each week for arithmetic. In order to carry out the principle of mutual instruction, the class was arranged in five divisions, each under the best scholar as a monitor, going over on one evening the previous lesson, before proceeding further. The number of this class being limited to thirty, other members who were desirous of joining, formed another class, on the same plan, under a Cabinet-maker, who was also a member of the School of Arts. To these mutual improvement classes the directors of the Institution appear to have given but little encouragement, for they expressly indicated their objection to giving a mere smattering of knowledge as the amusement of a vacant hour; they professed to offer solid instruction only, and to all persons who would receive it.

At the termination of the mutual improvement lectures, a mechanical and architectural drawing class was opened which proved highly successful. The experience of the first year, and

particularly the fact that the students were of no less than forty-eight different trades, convinced the directors of the Institution that the best plan was to limit the lectures to the general principles of those sciences which are of universal application to the arts, and not to attempt, as had at first been intended, teaching the principles of the arts in detail. To this principle they adhered, except that the courses on Farriery and on Architecture were repeated. The lectures on Mechanics and Chemistry were however accompanied by a course on Mathematics, which was attended by upwards of one hundred and fifty persons.

The peculiar features in the management of this early Institution were,—first: the selection of the directors from the annual subscribers or annual donors as they may be termed, securing to this the non-participating class the entire management of the society. Secondly: the limitation in the subjects of the lectures, which were required to be confined to such objects of science as would be useful to workmen in the exercise of their several trades. Thirdly: in the purchase of books which were restricted to subjects relating to science or art.

The average receipts of the first two years were from subscriptions (being donations) four hundred and forty-eight pounds each year, and three hundred pounds fees from members. The average expenditure of the year was six hundred and twenty pounds, which included these items: furniture and apparatus, two hundred and sixteen pounds; books and binding, one hundred and ten pounds; advertising, collecting, &c., seventy pounds; current necessary expenses, two hundred and twenty pounds. Upon the two years a saving of three hundred pounds was effected towards the purchase or erection of a lecture hall: such were the operations of this Mechanics' Institution in the two years preceding the formation of the Mechanics' Institutions of Glasgow and London. Its subsequent career will be amply detailed in the chapter upon the Institutions of Edinburgh.

In the month of July, 1823, were established two societies, which have each advanced a claim to be considered the first Mechanics' Institution in Great Britain. These associations are the Glasgow Mechanics' Institution, and the Liverpool Mechanics and Apprentices' Library. The former was established upon the model of the Edinburgh School of Arts, and differed only from that Institution in its more democratic form of management. To the Glasgow and Liverpool Institutions may be awarded the honour of being established by the working-classes; but to the latter alone belongs the credit of having existed solely by their support. Both have been unobtrusive and silent in their operations, yet their success has been great, without the aid of public fame to chronicle their proceedings. Situated in large cities they have existed year after year unknown even to the inhabitants beyond their immediate locality, while the moral, social, and intellectual reforms they have effected, together with the elder association, the Edinburgh School of Arts, (three silent societies,) have been far greater than ever sprung from all the Athenæums and Philosophical Institutions of the country.

THE GLASGOW MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

On the 5th of July, 1823, the seceders from the Anderson's Institution of Glasgow appointed a provisional committee to draw up rules for the government of a Mechanics' Institution, and to engage premises for the accommodation of the members. On the twenty-sixth day of the same month, the Glasgow Mechanics' Institution was formally established, and three hundred and seventy-four members, at subscriptions of ten shillings and sixpence and twenty-one shillings per annum, were enrolled at the first meeting. A large hall was immediately taken upon a lease of seven years, at an annual rent of forty-two pounds. Dr. Birkbeck, who had concurred in the propriety of their

secession from the Anderson Institution, was elected Patron. A Lecturer on Mechanics and Chemistry was appointed, at a salary of one hundred and fifty pounds per annum; and a resolution was passed at the same time to the effect that, as the Institution had begun without the assistance of the wealthy and influential citizens of Glasgow, it should be continued without asking their support, and that such property as it might acquire should belong to the mechanics of Glasgow for ever. This resolution was indicative of the spirit which has but too frequently animated the working-men in their undertakings in recent times. Our social as well as our political history have abundantly proved that such an assumption of independence has rarely been sustained. The Glasgow Mechanics' Institution has followed the general rule in its recent career by not only being dependent on the assistance of the wealthy citizens of Glasgow for the building it occupies, but for their contributions from year to year to carry on the Institution with efficiency. In the first session the Glasgow Mechanics' Institution had upwards of six hundred members, and the library, which was removed from the Andersonian Institution, was augmented to one thousand volumes. Complete courses of lectures were also delivered on Natural History; on Mathematics; and on Popular Anatomy, by Mr. M'Fayden, Mr. Mackie, and Dr. Brown. It is a fact worthy of record, as evincing the public demand for healthy amusement combined with solid improvement, that, notwithstanding the number of persons attending the classes at the Mechanics' Institution in the first session exceeded one thousand, the roll of students attending the Andersonian lectures was scarcely diminished. It is also certain that in the year 1824 a greater number of the inhabitants of Glasgow were receiving scientific instruction by the aid of lectures than at any subsequent period, notwithstanding the increase of population—of public Institutions—and the boasted advance of intelligence in a quarter of a century.

To the great metropolis has been awarded the honour of establishing *the first Institution in England*, having for its object the mental improvement of the working-man. The assertion has been repeated so often by public men, not only during the first few years succeeding the formation of the London Mechanics' Institution, but even to this day that facts and figures are the sole evidence by which the error can now be satisfactorily removed. It has been shown, that the Brotherly Society of Birmingham, which was established in 1796, and embraces lectures, library, and reading-room in its arrangements, is justly entitled to be considered *the first Mechanics' Institution in Great Britain*. The honour of establishing the second Association of this nature in England belongs to Liverpool.

That great commercial emporium possesses an Institution which has not alone the merit of being older than the London Mechanics' Institution from its formation taking place in the same month and year that the Glasgow Mechanics' Institution was established, but as exhibiting in its present combined form of the Liverpool Mechanics and Apprentices' Library, and the Brougham Institute, a perfect working-men's educational society. The Liverpool philanthropists, and the zealous Lancashire advocates of universal instruction, dazzled by those noble edifices the Collegiate and the Mechanics' Institution, which they have generously erected and consecrated to education, are ignorant of the silent yet extensive operations of the Institution which supplies the working-men of Liverpool with a large assortment of newspapers, of magazines, and an extensive library of books for the sum of one penny. The society which has attracted twenty-five thousand casual visitors in a single year has no chronicler—no monster soirée—for the recipients of its treasures are all labouring men and plod on from day to day in machine-like regularity. Their Parnassium is reached from a back street by a narrow intricate stair, dimly lighted on winter evenings. The

upper floor of a large warehouse is the great news-room, the depository of the stores of the societies named. The history of this association gathered from its dusty minute books, is full of interest, and shows a chequered career of difficulty and success. In the month of July, 1823, three months before Mr. Robertson's first proposition for the formation of the Metropolitan Mechanics' Institution, Mr. Egerton Smith the editor of the "Liverpool Mercury," after several previous unsuccessful appeals to the Liverpool public, provided a room at his own expense, and aided by a few individuals, established the

LIVERPOOL MECHANICS AND APPRENTICES' LIBRARY.

The objects of this Institution were thus defined in a circular issued the same year: "*Prompted by the example of New York*, a few individuals here, solicited, through the public papers, the co-operation of the intelligent community to establish a library, *leaving the extension of the Institution to other branches for future consideration as it progressed in magnitude and utility*; but not meeting that immediate concurrence which the object demanded, they were induced to adventure its advancement themselves." This circular clearly indicated the intention of the founders to extend their sphere of operations; and although a committee subsequently refused to connect their Institution with the Liverpool School of Arts, out of which arose the present Liverpool Mechanics' Institution, they have by their amalgamation (in all but name) with the Brougham Institute, established their claim to be regarded as one of the earliest Mechanics' Institutions existing in Great Britain.

The early history of the Liverpool Mechanics and Apprentices' Library represents as many fluctuations in the fundamental principles of management as any Institution existing. From its formation in July, 1823, the committee were chosen from the

donors and chief supporters to the Institution, and continued from custom, and not by virtue of any law, to be comprised wholly of this class until 1837. One of its earliest rules provided "that those mechanics and apprentices that are not members of this Institution, but who are desirous of partaking of its benefits shall, for the present, be furnished with books *free* on being nominated thereto by all such persons as shall make a donation to the extent of two guineas to the library." It appears also from the records of the society that the readers consisted almost, if not entirely, of the humbler classes for whom it was intended, although no restriction was imposed in the admission of members or in the class of works received as donations for the library. This latitude had a beneficial effect, for within a few months one thousand volumes were received, and the demands upon the library exceeded the supply. The first return in January, 1824 stated, that from seven to eight hundred volumes were exchanged weekly to four hundred young men, paying an annual subscription of four shillings. In the following year the number of volumes was increased to one thousand eight hundred; the number of readers to eight hundred. Donations in money to the extent of one hundred and fifty-seven pounds were also expended on books. About this period the fears of the committee were awakened at the number of religious and political works which came pouring into the library by the zeal of persons holding certain religious views, and an attempt was made by the committee on the sixth of February, 1825, to exclude these works. By the agency of a greater power they appear to have been induced to review their proceedings, for on a subsequent day they resolved,—"That the resolution of the sixth of February, which excludes all such works as contain polemical divinity and party politics shall be rescinded, and that exclusion shall be confined to such books only as are of an immoral character."

In the following year 1826, the powers of the executive appear

to have been delegated to two or three individuals, for the committee by a resolution, empower the president and vice-presidents to spend what money they pleased on the library which, at this time, contained two thousand eight hundred volumes, one half being "always in circulation in the hands of nine hundred and eighty-two readers." For the next six years the Institution continued its prosperous career; the number of books had increased in 1831, to three thousand five hundred; the readers to one thousand; and the annual issues to twenty thousand. In 1832 the number of readers was one thousand two hundred; the annual issues twenty-five thousand; and this appears to have been the highest circulation, as the issues in 1833 were reduced to twenty-two thousand five hundred; the readers to one thousand and twenty; and in 1834 the number of readers was only nine hundred and fifty-six; the committee attributing this reduction to the number of penny news-rooms opened in the town. The establishment of the Brougham Institute in the early part of 1837 seems to have had a beneficial effect on the committee, for they soon after consented to allow the readers to elect from their body one-third of the future board of management. It was not until 1838, when the committee were complaining of the "little interest evinced for the Institution" that they found it necessary to make restrictions in the admission of members, "finding that many now avail themselves of this Institution who were neither mechanics nor apprentices, and who can afford to pay the prices of the regular libraries of the town; they therefore recommend that in future the library be confined to the humbler classes, viz: apprentices, shop-boys, mechanics, and journeymen, for whose sole benefit the library was established." In the year 1839 the falling-off of members appears to have been checked, for the committee congratulate the subscribers that the library is in an efficient state, having one hundred and eighty readers in the summer, and two hundred and fifty in the winter.

The Brougham Institution was established in the month of December, 1836, for associating all the boys and young men who have a taste for reading, by means of a news and reading-room amply supplied with the leading local and provincial newspapers, monthly and quarterly periodicals, &c. During the first four years of its existence, Lectures were delivered, Concerts given, and Tea Parties held. An attractive Discussion Class was also formed, and from a record of political subjects discussed, it would appear that Controversial Divinity was the sole restriction upon the subjects debated. For nearly twenty years the Institution has been associated with the Mechanics' Library, and the combined societies are supported by the casual attenders paying one penny for each admission. From this source seven shillings per day is received. The subscribing members consist of thirty persons paying two shillings per quarter; twenty-six paying three shillings and sixpence half-yearly; three annual members at seven shillings; thirty-eight monthly subscribers at ten-pence each; and six apprentices paying monthly sixpence; making a total of one hundred and three enrolled members. The average number of persons visiting the news-room daily is upwards of one hundred; and the number of *different* individuals attending the Institution in one year exceeds two thousand. On Saturday evenings in the winter season, nearly one hundred persons may be seen in this humble yet well-supplied news-room at one time. The well-brushed thread-bare coat and the fustian jacket giving unmistakeable evidence of its being a working-man's society.

In this humble seminary the mind of the working-man, the journeyman baker, and the dock labourer, receive cultivation, not in reading the latest accounts of misdemeanors and local calamities, but in imbibing instruction and high gratification from the perusal of solid and valuable works, whether they lead him with the traveller across the pathless tracts of ocean, or cheer and console him with moral sketches of human nature.

THE LONDON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

History does not furnish an instance of an Association commencing more auspiciously than the Metropolitan Mechanics' Institution. The idea of its formation originated with Mr. J. C. Robertson, the talented editor of the "Mechanics' Magazine," who wrote an elaborate article in his journal, directing the attention of the working-mechanics of London to the desirability of establishing an Institution for their improvement in science, art, and manufactures. No sooner was currency given to the proposal, than Dr. Birkbeck came forward, and was at once acknowledged as the leader in the cause of adult education in the Metropolis. The members of a small society,* consisting of working-mechanics, tradesmen, and the radical reformers of that day, Gale, Jones, the two Evans's, and others who had suffered for political offences, were among the first who sent in their adhesion, and long continued to take an active share in the proceedings of the Institution. The first five hundred names enrolled as members of the new association consisted almost entirely of master mechanics, shop-keepers, and dealers in hardware, with their workmen, cabinet makers, and house-painters. On the second of December, 1823, the London Mechanics' Institution was established in due form, and in the following month the President Dr. Birkbeck, delivered the introductory address to many hundred workmen, members of the society. The first course of lectures was delivered by Professor Millington, on "Mechanics," at the close of which the number of persons who had entered as members, paying not only the quarterly subscription, but *one pound for entrance*

* The members of this society assembled nightly at Lunn's Coffee-house, Clerkenwell, devoting two evenings for reading, two for discussion, and one for music. Some of them are still connected with the management of Literary Institutions both in the metropolis and in the provinces. The able Secretary of one of the principal London Institutions was a distinguished member at Lunn's.

fee, exceeded twelve hundred, of whom eight hundred were computed to belong to that class of society distinguished as men receiving weekly wages for their labour. In the course of the same year lectures were delivered by Mr. Phillips, on Chemistry; by Mr. Dotchin, on Geometry; by Dr. Birkbeck, on Hydrostatics; by Mr. Cooper, on the Application of Chemistry to the Arts; Mr. Newton, on Astronomy; Mr. Tatum, on Electricity; and Mr. Black, on the French Language. At the close of the first year, viz., on the second December, 1824, the number of members was seven hundred and fifty, and in March, 1825, the roll contained eleven hundred names. Early in the year 1825 evening classes for instruction in arithmetic, mathematics, drawing, perspective, architecture, and the French language were formed, and rapidly filled with students. The temporary accommodation provided was in a chapel in Monkwell-street, Holborn, and in chambers in Furnivals Inn, one of the Inns of Court.

The London Mechanics' Institution owes its success, if not its continued existence, to munificent patronage. The donations of money received in the first year of its operation, exceeded one thousand pounds. These princely contributions enabled the committee to purchase extensive premises in Southampton Buildings, Holborn, at a cost of four thousand pounds, part of which sum (three thousand seven hundred pounds) was generously advanced by Dr. Birkbeck. That nothing might be wanting to complete the success of the Metropolitan Institution, the brother to the reigning sovereign presided at its second anniversary. Around the royal Duke were gathered men illustrious as the champions of liberty, munificent as contributors to the cause of education, and powerful as the chosen leaders of the public will; but the names of Brougham, Denman, Hobhouse, and Lushington (agitators on whom royal honours had not then been bestowed), associated with others of extreme liberal views, indicated a political feature which was well understood by the country and

led to the general belief in the minds of the conservative and timid, that all Mechanics' Institutions were radical reform associations. The Duke of Sussex raised a warning note which, had it been attended to, would have prevented the permature decay of the Institution. He declared—"That anything like debating upon political or theological subjects would be at once seized hold on for their destruction as a body:" yet, before three months had elapsed, the committee advertised the letting of their hall on Sundays, and it soon became the forum of the Owenites, the Cobbettites, the Huntites, and the anti-religionists Carlisle and Taylor.

In the year 1830 a public meeting was convened by the members of the Institution, and the system of letting the hall was condemned by a majority of one hundred votes: it was too late, however, to retrieve the falling society, and the proposals made in 1830 and 1831 for penny voluntary subscriptions to pay off the accumulating debts of the association (as in the case of the Manchester Athenæum at a subsequent period), met with no encouragement.

The average number of members in the first eight years, the most important period in the history of the Institution, is as follows:—

1824	750
1825	1389
1826	1477
1827	1225
1828	1100
1829	929
1830	950
1831	941

In the month of March, 1827, it was resolved to impose an entrance fee of two shillings and sixpence, and to raise the subscription to twenty-four shillings per annum. The total

number of members at that date was one thousand three hundred and seventy-four; but such was the immediate effect of the regulation, that in the following quarter a reduction of one hundred and sixty quarterly subscribers took place. In 1826 there was a credit balance in favour of the society; but in 1831 the debt of the Institution, notwithstanding donations to the extent of one thousand five hundred pounds, and two hundred and thirty-three pounds for letting the lecture hall, amounted to three thousand three hundred pounds; yet the members had not fallen below nine hundred.

It soon became apparent that a considerable change in the class of persons subscribing to the Institution had taken place: each quarterly meeting was rendered notorious for undignified scenes of boyish boisterousness and disorderly debate: the attorney's clerk out-talked and ultimately, out-voted the working mechanic. In the first and second year after the formation of the society, the working-mechanics of the metropolis formed a large majority of the subscribers; but from 1830 to the present time not more than two hundred members, on the average, have been working-men, or that class distinguished as receiving for their labour weekly wages, and for whose benefit the Institution was specially established.

Numerous attempts have been made to alter the rule which prescribes, that two-thirds of the committee shall consist of persons belonging to the working-classes, and it has been constantly evaded by allowing the shop-keeper to enter his name as a worker of the fabric or a manufacturer of the article he may sell. The Institution has for some years been little more than an association of shopkeepers and their apprentices, law copyists and attorneys' clerks; but in the elevation of this much-neglected class of society it has been productive of great good, and chiefly by affording to them a more valuable and refining *amusement* than their ordinary habits and indulgences lead them to select.

Of late years the annual and quarterly subscriptions of the members have been the only source from which all the current expenses, with the interest on the mortgage debt, have been defrayed. The mortgage of three thousand seven hundred pounds has only been reduced to the extent of one thousand three hundred pounds, leaving what appears to be a permanent debt of about three thousand pounds in mortgage debt and liabilities. The financial difficulties of the Institution have even extended to vexatious delays in the settlement of lecturers' fees, and other charges generally regarded as cash transactions. The library has received few additions, the classes have diminished, yet the number of members for some time past has averaged six hundred.

MECHANICS' AND LITERARY SOCIETIES IN LARGE TOWNS.

To indicate the impulses which now propel the multitude onward in civilization, describing the present age in its social features and in its intellectual tendencies, is a work of some magnitude. The "now" is the last link of a century which dawned while yet the witch fires blazed round the dying form of Heaven's last great work—woman; a period when intellectual associations could only exist by license from Justices of the Peace, and when the mere attendance at a lecture or discussion entailed heavy penalties on those who sought knowledge and truth. The faggot and the stake have happily passed away—wholesale carnage and the scaffold are waning—intellect is being developed in a natural and tranquil course, neither forced nor resisted by rules, and the product of the people's own sense of what is for their honour and best interest is rapidly maturing itself under the shelter of a well-ordered freedom. The present, too, affords ample evidence that honesty and justice are flourishing by the expanding leaves of man's brightest blossom—intellect,—with its variegated hues of virtue and religion.

It is interesting to trace the career of the popular Literary Societies of the country, and to compare their operations and their results with the expectations entertained by their first promoters. The founders of Literary and Mechanics' Institutions assumed that these associations would effect three great purposes. *First*,—the rapid promotion of general science by the greater

number of persons engaged in the observation of its phenomena. The lower ranks, who are chiefly engaged in manual labour, have frequent opportunities of making observations on certain peculiarities in the processes of art, which often escape the notice of observers of a superior rank, and thus the labouring classes of society would be rendered mutually useful, in uniting and concentrating the scattered rays of genius, which might otherwise be dissipated and lost to the scientific world. *Second*,—an extensive diffusion of rational information among the general mass of society. For by means of lectures and popular discussions, those narrow conceptions, superstitious notions, and vain fears, which so generally prevail among the lower classes of society, might be gradually removed, and a variety of useful hints and rational views suggested, promotive of domestic convenience and comfort. *Third*,—the creation of intellectual pleasures and refined amusements tending to the general elevation of character. The frequent intercourse of men of different parties and grades of life, for the purpose of promoting one common intellectual object, gradually vanquishing those prejudices and jealousies which almost universally exist, even in cultivated minds, is unquestionably an object to be cherished and encouraged. By such means a taste for rational enjoyments may be produced, and those hours generally spent in listlessness and in foolish amusements, may be converted into periods rendered precious by the inculcation of enlightened and elevating principles. Habits of order, punctuality, and politeness, would be engendered and flow from thence into all the other relations and departments of life.

Mechanics' Institutions, by constant modification, as well as extension of system, have in a quarter of a century effected an entire change both in their leading principles and in the class of persons ruling and attending them, The primary object for which these societies were originally established was the instruction of the working men *in the arts they practice*, and more especially

in those branches of science which are applied in so many forms to the local manufactures of the great provincial towns. The preambles to the rules and constitution of the principal Institutes afford undeniable evidence upon this point. In numerous instances these preambles have been quietly suppressed, when it has been found that the object sought could not be realized.

Preamble of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution.

This society was formed for the purpose of enabling Mechanics and Artizans of whatever trade they may be, to become acquainted with such branches of science as are of practical application in the exercise of that trade, that they may possess a more thorough knowledge of their business, acquire a greater degree of skill in the practice of it, and be qualified to make improvements and even new inventions in the Arts which they respectively profess. It is not intended to teach the trade of the Machine Maker, the Dyer, the Carpenter, the Mason, or any other practical business, but there is no Art which does not depend, more or less on scientific principles, and to search what these are, and to point out their practical application, will form the chief objects of this Institution. The mode in which it is proposed to accomplish these purposes is, in the first place, by the delivery of Lectures on the various sciences, and their practical application to the Arts of these lectures. Mechanical Philosophy and Chemistry will, of course, be leading subjects; and when their general principles, and those of other important Sciences have been made known, more minute and detailed instruction upon particular branches of Art, will form the subjects of subsequent lectures. It is intended that a suitable Library shall be formed for circulation and reference, and that there shall be a collection of Models, Instruments, together with *an experimental Workshop and Laboratory.* It is hoped, also, that instruction may be given in the elements of Geometry, in the higher branches of Arithmetic, and in Mechanical and Architectural Drawing.

The preamble of the London Mechanics' Institution defines the object of the society to be "the instruction of the members in the principles of the arts they practice, and in the various branches of science and useful knowledge; by means, *First,*—of the voluntary association of mechanics and others; *Second,*—of donations of money, books, implements, and apparatus; *Third,*—a library and

reading room; *Fourth*,—a museum of machines, models, &c.; *Fifth*,—lectures; *Sixth*, evening classes; and *Seventh*, by means of an experimental workshop and laboratory.

The workshops of the London, the Manchester, and the Newcastle Mechanics' Institutions had a short career; and indeed wherever industrial education has been attempted in these institutions it has proved a signal failure. Several societies are rich in philosophical apparatus, in working models of machinery, and in cabinets of minerals; but these stores, if not absolutely valueless, have been comparatively useless. Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, and London, have each collections of this nature, on which the dust has been long accumulating. On the other hand, the formation of chemical laboratories (where the entrance to them has not been barred by heavy fees) have realized all that could be anticipated, or that their capabilities would allow. The Chemical Classes of Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Manchester, Westminster, York, Glasgow, and Newcastle, are just examples of the general taste for chemical science.

Lectures have met with a premature decay. The elder Institutions made their engagements for long and complete courses in each branch of science—somewhat of the character of university lectures, with examinations testing their usefulness, and taxing the attention of their auditory. From complete courses of ninety and sixty lectures upon one branch of physical science, lectures have dwindled to an average of three in each course, and a general practice of having one lecture for each branch of science. In the choice of subjects the change has been equally unfavourable; the plain and easily understood discourses on the elements of the sciences, and their application to the useful arts, illustrated by numerous experiments, have been abandoned; and the preference shown for light literature, criticism, music, and the drama, has given just occasion for the statement, that even the elder Metropolitan Mechanics' Institution, since its establishment, has given

more attention to *the Drama* than to the entire range of physical science.

The management of these societies was at first exclusively confined to Committees, chosen from the donors and patrons, who from being non-participators in the intellectual advantages afforded by each Institution, although very suggestive, were not the best qualified to meet the requirements of the members.

The most important feature in the Mechanics' Institution has ever been the evening classes. The formation of this department was an immense improvement upon the old "night schools," which were generally conducted by one master, who was surrounded by his pupils, engaged in dissimilar tasks at the same time—thus one would be writing, another learning grammar, a third geography, and a fourth at arithmetic. The regulations of a Mechanics' Institution, on the other hand, are definite. The studies are undertaken at fixed periods, and one subject alone entertained at a time, with the exception of mathematics, which, as an advanced study of arithmetic, and generally attended by *few* pupils, is carried on in the Arithmetic Class ; and in the Drawing Classes, where the practice of architectural, geometrical, and mechanical drawing, is pursued by the pupils side by side.

The Mechanics' and Literary Institutions of Great Britain are too numerous to permit of detailed description, and indeed, amid the competing claims of so many admirable societies, it is difficult to decide which are entitled to pre-eminence. The history of adult education in large towns, as exemplified in the Mechanics' and Mutual Improvement Societies, in towns containing fifty thousand inhabitants and upwards, will, therefore, be primarily considered.

ABERDEEN.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION. In January, 1824, the working-mechanics of Aberdeen resolved to establish an Institution

for the purpose of obtaining for themselves, at a moderate expense, instruction in the various branches of science useful in the exercise of their professions; and in order to attain this object, a library of the most useful practical works in the arts, and on the principles of science connected with them, was formed: lectures were secured on those branches of science which are of the greatest importance to practical tradesmen. At the same time it was resolved to keep constantly in view the single object of the Institution, both in the appointment of lecturers, and in the choice of books to be placed in the library.

Most scrupulously were these original regulations adhered to for a quarter of a century, and the Aberdeen Mechanics' Institution, at the close of last year, exhibited the same features in its classes—Natural Philosophy, Mathematics, Chemistry, Drawing, Writing, Arithmetic, and the same lengthened courses of purely scientific lectures which marked its operations in the year of its formation. The range of instruction afforded by the Institution has, however, been much extended since 1825, when the Rev. Dr. Forbes told the members that Belles Lettres, Political Economy, and even History, were dangerous studies.

This Institution may be regarded as a society for the promotion of adult education by means of evening classes, for its chief operations have been confined to this, the most important feature of a Mechanics' Institution. During the first two years of its existence the attendances in various elementary classes were in the highest degree creditable to the managers and teachers of the Institution, as well as to the working-men of the town. A well selected scientific Library of eight hundred volumes was collected as early as the year 1825, but in fifteen years it was only augmented to one thousand four hundred. By means of a small Reading Society, with an extra subscription, a great number of works have recently been added, and the present number is two thousand three hundred volumes, including eighty select novels.

The annual circulation is five thousand nine hundred and sixty-two. The entire subscription paid to the Library is inadequate to meet the current expenditure of lighting and attendants in this department of the society.

As early as the year 1834 it was resolved, that the Institution should possess a building of its own; thirteen years, however, elapsed before its erection could be completed.

The Institution now consists of a large and commodious house, containing a Hall capable of seating one thousand persons; five large class rooms; a library, a museum, and some smaller apartments. The lower story is let as shops and offices, yielding an annual rental of one hundred and seventy pounds. The entire cost of the erection of this building has been three thousand eight hundred and sixty-two pounds; and for furnishing, two hundred and forty pounds; total cost, four thousand one hundred and two pounds. It is liable to a feu duty or ground rent of sixty-five pounds, and interest at five per cent. (one hundred pounds), on a mortgage of two thousand pounds.

The number of members enrolled in the books of this society affords imperfect data of the number of persons participating in its advantages. The life members form the most influential section, but they can only be regarded as patrons of the Institution, availing themselves of a few of its privileges. Each member is entitled to recommend annually a pupil to one of the classes. In 1846, one hundred and ninety-two pupils were sent to the classes by life members; one hundred and ninety-seven were sent in 1847; and in the following year one hundred and fifty-four young persons attended the classes upon recommendation, many of whom were too poor to pay the ordinary fee of seven shillings and sixpence for six months' instruction. By this regulation of the Mechanics' Institution, the very general complaint of want of means forms no barrier to the indigent labourer or apprentice in Aberdeen, if he be disposed to cultivate his mental faculties.

	1846	1847	1848	1849
Life Members	220	238	234	238
Ordinary Members, paying 4/ per annum	130	115	225	198
Readers in the library, paying 1/ per quarter	204	276	234	285
Pupils attending the Classes	180	449	383	292
Total number connected with the society	734	1078	1076	1013

The pupils in the classes, the subscribers to the library, the life, and the ordinary members, forming four distinct sections of the Institution, when classified by their several occupations, exhibit the following result :—

	1847.					1849.	
	Students in Evening Classes.	Readers in Library.	Life Members.	Ordinary Members.	Total.	Students.	Readers.
Mechanical trades	103	55	31	7	196	80	49
Building and Furnishing trades	74	32	21	3	130	31	31
Clothing and Dress trades	33	29	32	10	104	17	29
Mercantile, as Clerks, &c.	123	76	42	50	291	82	79
Connected with Schools, &c.	82	42	10	15	149	56	62
Connected with Medicine, Agriculture, &c	22	32	14	12	80	10	13
Other occupations	12	8	88	18	126	2	22
	449	274	238	115	1076	278	285

The Classes entail an annual expenditure of forty-five pounds beyond the receipts of this department. In the Report for 1849 the numbers attending the classes are thus returned: Mechanical Drawing, 13; Architectural Drawing, 21; Chalk, &c., 88; Modelling and Mathematics, 4; Writing, 38; Arithmetic and Book-keeping, 51; English Grammar, 43; French, 19; German, 6; total, 292. The Natural Philosophy and Chemistry Classes have been given up. Prizes have been discontinued for some time; and one cause of the decline in the number of attending pupils is attributed to this defect. An Essay and Discussion Class, or monthly meeting for the reading of essays, has been instituted in the last year, with moderate success.

The Institution possesses an excellent museum of works of natural history and art, models of machinery, &c.

There is a great want of a popular literary society in this northern city, as neither the fees, nor the present arrangements of the Mechanics' Institution, will allow of an extension of objects of attraction. Aberdeen is at present far behind towns of less importance in the privilege of listening to the most popular lecturers of the kingdom; and the establishment of a Lecture Society, or Athenæum, appears to be an object of difficult attainment in the granite city.

THE ABERDEEN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY was instituted in 1840 by the resident professors in the local colleges of Marischal and King's, with whom are associated a few of the professional gentlemen of the town. Monthly meetings for the reading of essays are held every winter session. The society consists of about thirty members.

BIRMINGHAM.

There is no town in the United Kingdom whose prosperity is so fully dependent on the intelligence and skill of its artizans as Birmingham, and yet, owing to a variety of circumstances, including strong party influences, the inhabitants have not extended that fostering care to their adult educational Institutions which might have been anticipated from the readiness with which they have co-operated for their formation. The Mechanics' Library, the Mechanics' Institution, the Athenæum, the Literary and Scientific Institution, the Literary and Mercantile Institute, and the People's Hall, have each been auspiciously commenced, and as readily abandoned when the novelty of their first proceedings have passed away. Upon comparison with other towns, it appears that for many years the amount annually contributed by honorary members and donors has been

very small, and that the merchants and manufacturers, in thus neglecting to cultivate and refine the minds of their workmen, have not adequately contributed to maintain that pre-eminence in mechanical and artistic skill which the town has so long possessed, and of which nothing, but a disregard to scientific knowledge, can deprive it.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION of Birmingham was formed in the year 1825, and soon rose to upwards of one thousand members, subscribing three shillings per quarter. Lectures were delivered weekly; elementary classes opened; and a good scientific library collected. It was at this period that the Institution was permanently injured by raising the subscription to four shillings per quarter, the numbers gradually falling until only one hundred remained. An attempt was made in 1831 to revive the society, by reducing the subscriptions to the original terms, which was partly successful. In 1835 the number of quarterly members was upwards of three hundred, and of honorary members, paying twenty-one shillings, forty-five; making a total of three hundred and fifty members. Ninety members attended the Evening Classes of Writing, Grammar, Arithmetic, Drawing, Mathematics, French, and Latin. The Institution continued in the same state for the succeeding seven years. In 1840 the members consisted of four hundred and eighty-seven persons, of whom four hundred and five were entered at the working-class rate of subscription; but of this number only two hundred and forty were men receiving weekly wages, and young persons under age. The library at this period had increased to three thousand volumes, and formed the chief inducement for subscribing to the Institution. In 1843 an attempt was made to raise money by an exhibition, but failing to realize even the preparatory expenses incurred, the Institution was abandoned. A few influential persons, however, came forward and purchased the library, with which they commenced a new society, called

THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION. The directors, at its first formation, endeavoured to make such additions as should sufficiently adapt the society to the wants of the working classes. A news room was formed, baths were opened, a chess club instituted, and an agreement entered into with the Drapers' and Grocers' Association, for the admission of the members of that society to the advantages of the new Institution, at a reduced rate of subscription. The rate of subscription was fixed at six shillings per quarter for the entire advantages; four shillings for the lectures, library, and classes; three shillings per quarter for the lectures and library; and two shillings per quarter for the classes. The number of members at the conclusion of the first year, 1845, was four hundred and ninety-six; in the following year, six hundred and thirty; in 1847, six hundred; and in 1848, six hundred and sixty-four, including one hundred and eight ladies. The total number of honorary and life members amounted only to fourteen, a proof of the small amount of assistance derived from the wealthier classes. For two years the baths proved not only a beneficial department of the society, but a satisfactory item in the financial statement. After that period it was found they entailed a small annual charge upon the funds, which induced the directors to abandon them, and establish a coffee room. Lectures, chiefly of a literary character, have been delivered weekly for nine months in each year, since the formation of the society, at a net cost of one hundred pounds per annum. The issues from the library have been from twelve to thirteen thousand, upon a stock of three thousand five hundred volumes. The department of Evening Classes, forming the chief educational portion of the society's operations, has been efficiently carried out for several years. The Public Classes, affording free instruction by paid teachers, in Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, and Drawing, have in the last four years been attended by two hundred pupils, with an average nightly attendance of ninety-six, and conducted at a cost of eighty-five pounds per annum. To

these may be added the extra classes of French, German, and Latin, which have secured an average nightly attendance of fifty pupils. The Chemical and Mathematical Classes have ceased, but a Phonographic and Phonetic Society of fifty members has flourished for five years, and is now established as a separate association, within the walls of the Polytechnic Institution. An annual distribution of prizes to the most deserving pupils in the public classes has been found most beneficial, not alone in attracting and in retaining pupils, but in stimulating them to mental exertion, and more frequent attendance in the class rooms. The annual income is about five hundred and eighty pounds, and the chief items of expenditure are :—rent, seventy pounds ; salaries, sixty pounds; newspapers and magazines, seventy pounds; books, thirty-five pounds ; taxes, light, fuel, &c., seventy pounds ; lectures, one hundred pounds nett ; and classes eighty-five pounds.

The People's Instruction Society of Birmingham might be designated the People's Athenæum, for it affords all the advantages of an intellectual club, at a remarkable low rate of subscription. For one penny per week the working-man has access to a reading room, well supplied with newspapers and periodicals ; to a library, containing one thousand three hundred volumes ; to lectures, delivered weekly ; to a chess room ; to a debating society ; and to a refreshment room, where dinners are provided on such terms as are found to meet the limited means of the poorer operatives. For an additional penny, instruction is afforded by evening classes in reading, writing, arithmetic and elocution, singing and phonography. In addition to the lectures, musical entertainments are given, excursions are undertaken, and tea parties and social meetings occasionally enliven the winter evenings. The only aid afforded is the free use of the New Meeting Sunday School, gratuitous lectures by local gentlemen, and a few pounds in donations. The *weekly* mode of payment necessarily occasions excessive fluctuation in the number of members.

This society was established in 1846, and the average of the first year gave a return of six hundred members, five hundred of whom were working-men, fifty females, and fifty persons not belonging to the former class. The income for 1847 was forty-eight pounds; but in the first half-year of 1848, the receipts reached fifty-three pounds. Evening classes for the instruction of both sexes were attended, in 1847 by one hundred and twenty men, and thirty females, and last year (1849) by three hundred and twenty-seven persons, consisting of two hundred and fifty junior members, fifty-five adults, and twenty females. The discussion class has an average attendance of sixty members, owing chiefly to the subjects introduced being topics of general interest, as,—"The Distress in Ireland: its best remedy;" "The best means of preventing Juvenile Criminality;" and "The Monetary Laws." The Circulating Book Society has been in successful operation for twelve months; its object is the purchasing of a class of works not taken by the Institution, and after their perusal by the smaller society, presenting them to the general library as the property of the Institution.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION, with its seventy-four members, paying one pound eleven shillings and sixpence per annum subscription, and its debt of nearly seven hundred pounds, will be referred to in the chapter on Philosophical Institutions.

THE ATHENIC INSTITUTE was established in 1842, for providing its members with the means of obtaining mental, moral, and physical improvement, together with rational amusement. This society, like some of the ancient guilds, recognises the principles of fraternity and love, and imitating the Reformation Societies, the models from which all these Institutions sprung, they make one feature of their association *the repression of immorality*. In order to test the character and conduct of their members, all persons are received as probationary subscribers for three months;

they are next balloted for, and afterwards received as members upon subscribing to the following declaration of principles:—

"Believing that it is incumbent upon man to seek for the proper exercise of the whole of his faculties, and adopting the principles of this society, we pledge ourselves to endeavour to carry them into effect, and for such purpose to make ourselves as useful as we can. We engage to behave with civility and respect, and to consider each other as brothers, going hand in hand in our improvements and amusements, and studying each others welfare and happiness. Avoiding bad company, immoral habits, and all unmanly behaviour, we will love and cultivate honesty and and truth, so that by the intrinsic weight of our principles, and rectitude of our conduct, we shall ensure our own happiness, and promote the happiness of those with whom we are connected. And we further pledge ourselves, that our general conduct shall accord with our profession, so as to gain the confidence of our friends, and merit the support and esteem of all who know us."

For two shillings per quarter the members of this Institution are admitted to an excellent news room, to a library of four hundred volumes, to lectures, gymnastic and social festivals, and to mutual improvement classes. Dancing and phonography classes have also been established with success. Every Monday and Saturday evening is devoted to select entertainments; the Monday evenings for the months of November and December, 1849, and January, 1850, offer the following attractions:—

Monday,	November 5	....Bal Masque.
„	12	....Social Meeting.
„	19	....Gymnastic.
„	26	....Select Readings.
„	December 3	....Festival.
„	10	....Gymnastic.
„	17	....Social Meeting.
„	24	....Christmas Vigil.
Wednesday,	26	....Christmas Festival.

Monday, December 31....Bal Masque.
„ January 7....Gymnastic.
„ 14....Social Meeting.
„ 21....Festival.
„ 28....Lecture, by J. W. Waters, Esq.

In the summer season the members participate in cricket, quoits, and other health-inspiring sports in their own field, at the outskirts of the town. The roll of members has undergone great fluctuation, the present number on the books is only thirty-five, with seventy subscribers. The President, Lord John Manners, takes a deep interest in the Institution.

THE CARR LANE BROTHERLY SOCIETY, the first Mechanics' Institution in Britain, with its forty members, paying a subscription of two shillings and sixpence per annum, and receiving instruction by the aid of lectures, classes, a news and reading room, has been adverted to. (Page 30.)

THE ST. GEORGE'S INSTRUCTION SOCIETY has recently sprung from the adult classes in connection with the Church Schools of the Rev. Mr. Lea, and from the energy displayed by the worthy Pastor and President, there is some promise of permanent success.

THE ST. MARY'S CHURCH INSTRUCTION SOCIETY is another Institution recently established by members of the Church Establishment; its chief operations have been the delivery of lectures on Poetry, History, and Science.

THE BIRMINGHAM ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE, by means of lectures, is not a literary or a mental improvement society.

THE PEOPLE'S HALL is a large building in Lower Loveday Street, built by the LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE. Two thousand shares of one pound, payable in sums of not less than sixpence weekly, were issued, but one thousand four hundred shares were never paid up. The entire sum raised from the donations and shares of the wealthy, was only one hundred and

fifty pounds, and yet one of the objects contemplated to be provided by this building was a commodious concert hall; the high bailiff and town authorities having refused to allow musical entertainments to be given in the town hall; but upon the erection of the People's Hall the rule was rescinded, and the town hall let for Saturday evening concerts. Although the Literary and Scientific Institution had provided by its rules that the usual restriction as to the discussion of subjects of controversial divinity and present party politics should be adhered to, a religious feud broke out, which destroyed the society before the building could be completed, and for three years it has remained in an unfinished state, without the least hope of its being used for any of the purposes for which it was intended.

BRISTOL.

A MECHANICS' INSTITUTION was established in the Broadmead in the year 1826, and obtained a moderate share of public patronage. The subscription was fixed at the low rate of eight shillings per annum to the classes, lectures, and library, yet the average number of members during the first ten years did not exceed two hundred. In the year 1840, seventeen lectures were delivered, one thousand and fifty issues were made from the library, and the number of enrolled members consisted of thirty-six juniors, fifty mechanics, and one hundred and thirty-six other subscribers. In 1844 the property of the Institution was sold to meet the heavy liabilities, but in the following year it was re-opened as a news-room.

THE YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY for religious and intellectual improvement was formed in the year 1837, by David Naismith. This association, on the broad basis of a recognition of the New Testament as the standard of truth and duty, has brought together earnest men from all sects and parties, for aiding each other in intellectual training, and in co-operating to promote the well-being

of their fellow-men. The members of this society from its commencement have claimed for themselves the right of free inquiry on all subjects, and the exposure of all errors, however popular, by holding them up to public reprobation. Acting on these views, they have organised public meetings in advocacy of the temperance, the anti-slavery, and the new spelling reforms, together with the revision of the criminal laws of the country. These demonstrations have neither attracted wealthy patrons, nor secured a large number of converts or members. Indeed, it has been complained that young men connected with the Church of England have abstained from enrolling themselves in this association owing to its political tendency. The best feature in this brotherly society is its evening classes for mutual instruction. Of these phonography, mathematics, English grammar, and essay classes, have been attended every winter by about seventy young men. Gratuitous lectures by local professional men, have formed a portion of the operations of the society. In 1843 the number of members was one hundred and sixty, but at present they do not exceed eighty. A neat and well-conducted reading room, the distribution of useful periodicals, and the opening of a small library of two hundred volumes, with a branch library of one hundred volumes, have been found to be extensively beneficial. It is reported that upwards of twenty of the members have within a short period become masters of large public schools in various parts of the country.

The Bristol Athenæum was established in 1845 upon the dissolution of the Mechanics' Institution and the Church Book Society. The purchase of the libraries of these Institutions, together with the occupancy of eligible premises centrally situated, secured to the Athenæum immediate patronage and support. By its rules the directors are required to include theological and political science in their lecture arrangements, but with the exception of two lectures on political economy in the last session, they

have, perhaps wisely, allowed this rule to remain inoperative. At the close of the year 1845 the number of life members and subscribers was three hundred and sixty.

	1847.	1848.	1849.
Evening Members, paying 10/6 per annum, or 4/ per quarter	400	419	443
Daily Subscribers, chiefly Shareholders, at 21/, 19/, and 15/ per annum.	185	222	255
Junior Members, at 5/6 per annum	115	55	88
	700	696	786

The mechanics, or weekly journeymen, do not participate, to any extent, in the advantages of the Bristol Athenæum; the number of this class on the books of the society not exceeding fifty annually. The ordinary income of the Institution from subscriptions is about four hundred pounds, which is expended in rent, one hundred pounds; in salaries, &c., one hundred and twenty pounds; in newspapers, nett, one hundred and sixty pounds; in lectures, nett, sixty pounds; in advertising, printing, fuel, and general expenses, sixty pounds.

The lecture department of the Bristol Athenæum has been conducted at less pecuniary sacrifice than is usual in similar Institutions. In 1848, the system which was formerly adopted in Scotland of issuing course tickets to the members at the moderate rate of sixpence for three lectures, was found useful in ensuring a regular attendance at the lectures, and in offering inducements to non-members to subscribe to the Institution.

An examination of the lecture lists for the last three years furnishes the following return :—

Lectures delivered in	1846-7.	1847-8.	1848-9.
Literature, &c.	10	19	9
Mental and Physical Science	15	13	12
Fine Arts and the Drama	13	8	3
Music	5	4	3
Total number of Lectures	43	44	27
Cost to the Institution	£155	£288	£194
Receipts—admissions	£150	£332	£149

The demand for books from the library, now containing four thousand one hundred volumes, has been steadily on the increase; yet the issues, when compared with the deliveries from similar Institutions in large towns, is considerably below the average:

Issues to March, 1847	5,182 vols.	
„ 1848	5,897 „	
„ 1849	11,912 „	and 1,390 Magazines.

The news room is supplied with twenty copies of local journals, fifteen London daily, eleven provincial, &c., and fourteen London weekly newspapers. The reading room is supplied with twenty-three magazines and reviews, and a few serial works.

The classes are all self-supporting. The essay and discussion society numbers twenty-five members; the subscription is two shillings and sixpence per annum. The chess club has forty members, paying five shillings annually. The singing class is attended by forty pupils; and the algebra, drawing, and French classes, in the whole by fifty pupils.

DUNDEE.

The Dundee Watt Institution was established in 1824. Its chief features are its museum and library; the former was considered an object of great importance in the original scheme of the Institution, and by the laborious efforts of several friends an exceedingly valuable collection, in the various departments of natural history, &c., was formed. The following statement will show the number of visitors and members to the Museum, for eight years:—

	Strangers.	Members.	Total.	Receipts.
From 1839 to 1845, seven years..	2,658	6,322	8,980	£29
1846, one year....	3,337	9,993	13,310	£13

The members of the Watt Institution now possess a handsome building, erected in 1838, in one of the principal streets in the

centre of the town, at a cost of two thousand four hundred pounds. The defect in this society is the absence of evening classes; and although the members have memorialised the directors to establish a system of classes, the request has not been acceded to, upon the scarcely valid plea of inadequate accommodation. During the last few years, great public spirit has been shown in the engagement of the most popular lecturers of the age. The zeal displayed by the directors in securing the highest lecturing talent has been rewarded by a large accession of members. Twenty-eight lectures were delivered in the past year, including the engagements of Dawson, Gilfillan, Emerson, and Buckingham.

The annual soirées of this society, under the guidance and presidency of the Right Honourable Lord Kinnaird, have proved important festivals, interesting the general public, located in that fertile district of Scotland, in the welfare of Mechanics' Institutions and Schools of art.

The annual returns of subscribing members since the establishment of the Institution are as follows:—

March,	1825..... 409	March,	1838..... 280
„	1826..... 133	„	1839..... 470
„	1827..... 117	„	1840..... 278
„	1828..... 138	„	1841..... 195
„	1829..... 108	„	1842..... 111
„	1830..... 81	„	1843..... 206
„	1831..... 114	„	1844..... 150
„	1832..... 120	„	1845..... 249
„	1833..... 114	„	1846..... 678
„	1834..... 196	„	1847..... 633
„	1835..... 240	„	1848..... 470
„	1836..... 285	„	1849..... 590
„	1837..... 341		

A gratifying feature included in this return is sixty-nine lady members enrolled in the last year.

Since the formation of this Institution, seven hundred pounds have been expended in lectures, and the like sum in books for the library. A news and reading room has also been recently added, which has proved nearly self-supporting. The number of volumes in the library is three thousand two hundred and fifty, and the issues in the past year have amounted to seventeen thousand one hundred and sixty. The subscription to this Institution is four shillings per annum, for ladies and apprentices, and only six shillings per annum for other members.

An exhibition of paintings, &c., was held last year, which was attended by fifteen thousand of the inhabitants of Dundee and the surrounding districts, but pecuniarily considered, it proved a failure.

EDINBURGH.

The resident in Scotland cannot fail to have remarked, that the natural shrewdness and intelligence of the people arise rather from the excellent education afforded in youth, than from any inherent quality of blood, or influence of climate. This characteristic is especially marked in the highland born, and to the Celtic race exclusively belongs the candour and warm-hearted friendship so conspicuous in the North, yet so rarely to be found east, west, or south of Stirling. In Scotland, as in Spain, every operation of life is tested by the priesthood. The ministers of every denomination of the Scottish Kirk are admitted into domestic life, with an influence as potent as the consulting physician, and are equally cognizant of all family compacts and disorders. Their influence is paramount in all social, mental, moral, and artistic societies and operations; and their opinions become final decisions alike certain of adoption in the family dinner circle, the public library, and the municipal board. Fortunately for society, the Scottish clergy, intellectually considered, are in advance of those over whom their influence extends, and hence many proceedings, characterised by

the world as "bigotted," emanate rather from their servile followers than from the pastors themselves. An influence of this misguided character has acted most prejudicially to the advancement of literary, scientific, and artistic Institutions in Scotland. Numerous societies, formed in the best spirit of liberty of conscience, and eminently calculated to disseminate truth, enlightenment, and happiness, have been destroyed by the unjust breath of fanaticism. A flourishing Mechanics' Institution in Edinburgh accepts, among others, a gratuitous lecture from the resident Unitarian Minister, and the fall of the Institution is immediately sealed. A Literary Society at Perth engages a popular English lecturer, whose theological doctrines are ascertained to be unsound in the estimation of certain acute elders and deacons, and by this act the Institution sinks to decay. The most flourishing Athenæum in Great Britain in 1848, engages a celebrated American poet, who is afterwards suspected of scepticism, the Sunday school teachers become alarmed, the religious opinions of the Directors are canvassed, the unorthodox are ignominiously expelled from the directory, the society loses more than one-half of its members, and the Institution is only saved by the greater wisdom and influence of the clergy. A morbid sense of propriety consigns some of the most perfect *chefs d'œuvres* of art to the lumber rooms of the School of Design and the Picture Gallery. The same depressing influence on the advancement of Art causes the expulsion of Baillie's "Eve" from the vestibule of a Literary Institution in Glasgow.

The Edinburgh School of Arts is the only establishment in Britain deserving the title of a "People's College." For twenty-eight years it has continued to supply to one class of society in the Scottish capital the training which the University has to another; diffusing useful knowledge, and promoting not merely the material but the moral character of no less than twelve thousand individuals, who have received valuable practical instruction in its classes. It will be seen from the early career

of this society (page 39—41), that large and liberal subscriptions were received at its commencement, but as these shrunk into small sums, the society became so crippled in its finances, that application was made for Government assistance. Fortunately for the honour of societies presenting so noble a monument of independence and voluntaryism as the Mechanics' Institutions of Great Britain, the application was unsuccessful, and the Edinburgh School of Arts, after a career of twenty years, adopted the wiser course of varying and extending its curriculum, by opening classes for French and singing.

The following return, compiled from the annual reports of the society, represents the number of pupils attending the various classes in the last ten years, and the number of extra tickets issued to three or more classes :—

	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849
Natural Philosopy..	183	184	85	70	96	102	99	104	58	81
Chemistry.....	179	186	76	84	94	106	87	83	47	59
Mathematics.....	222	194	130	103	88	106	87	101	81	91
English.....	49	59	30	32	35	43	33	74	52	44
Drawing.....	64	64	65	67	58	65	65	68	67	68
Modelling.....	49	52	53	45	39	29	36	56	40	34
Arithmetic.....	..	..	..	..	46	39	38	38	32	44
French	..	..	..	..	170	143	103	109	97	91
Natural History...	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Political Economy .	..	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Singing.....	..	..	..	74	..	..	..	..	..	..
Full Tickets	..	..	23	31	52	49	44	50	140	172
Extra Tickets.....	..	..	11	14	12	5	8	8	10	9
	777	724	473	526	690	687	600	691	624	695

In the formation of a class for teaching the art of ornamental modelling, the directors did not contemplate they were opening a nursery for artists, but rather to teach those engaged in trades where ornamental forms are important elements, such as jewellers, die sinkers, brass founders, and other workers in metals. Several men who are eminent as sculptors and architects, in various parts

of the kingdom, however, owe their position in life to the Edinburgh School of Arts.

The attendance in the mathematical classes may be regarded as a convincing proof that the great mass of the students do not resort to the school either for amusement or the acquisition of superficial attainments, but to obtain possession of sound practical information. The system of teaching Mathematics adopted at the School of Arts is by means of lectures, and it has been objected that this system is faulty, from the want of *practical* lessons, to be worked out by the pupils, under the inspection and guidance of the master.

The fees derived from students cover only about half of the necessary expenditure, and amount to about one hundred and twenty pounds, on an average of years. The expenditure by rent, taxes, attendance, wages, printing, gas, furniture, &c., are met by the annual subscriptions of the wealthy inhabitants of Edinburgh, and such support is absolutely necessary to the very existence of this society. In short, to quote the last report of the directors, "without public support it could not be carried on for more than a single session." It would be a reproach to auld Scotia to allow an Institution so important to decline.

Besides awarding prizes to students who distinguish themselves in each class, the directors in 1835 devised a method for encouraging the regular prosecution of a consecutive course of study. Those students who have regularly attended the prescribed courses, and from examination are found to have properly profited, have a certificate given to them of membership to the School of Arts for life, and this solemnly before the annual public meeting of the society.

The real value of the diplomas of life membership may be inferred from the course of study required in order to gain them. The range of study embraces a total attendance of three years, and of at least one year on each of the following branches, viz.,

mathematics, including arithmetic and algebra, recommended to be taken the first year; chemistry the second; and natural Philosophy the third. The students in any one of these three Classes, who choose to come forward for the purpose, at the end of each course, undergo a *strict examination*, conducted by the lecturers, generally in the presence of one or more of the directors; and all those students who are found to possess a fair knowledge of the subjects taught in any given class, receive an "Attestation of Proficiency." And every student who, at the conclusion of three years' attendance, produces "Attestations of Proficiency" from all the classes in the prescribed course of study, receives a diploma of "Life Membership," certifying that he has undergone a regular education at the Edinburgh School of Arts, specifying the branches of study pursued, and that he has been found, on examination, to possess a competent knowledge of all these subjects. Such students enjoy the privilege of free admission to the lectures at the school during life, and a right to the use of the library, on paying two shillings annually to the Institution. A certificate obtained by a course of study like this, and after examinations so searching and complete, is unquestionably one of the highest and most flattering testimonials which a young man can possess; it certifies at once the correctness of his conduct, the extent of his studies, and the proficiency he has made; and go where he will, and apply for what situation he may, this certificate of membership obtained so honourably, must ever be his best recommendation, as well as the most powerful stimulus to a line of conduct which should support the character he has acquired.

Forty-six persons have been presented with Diplomas of Life Membership. Thirty-eight persons have obtained "Attestations of Proficiency" in the last session.

The library has been founded and mainly supported by the liberality of friends of the school, as there is no separate fund

for its maintenance. It has upwards of two thousand volumes, and the annual issues in the last ten years have varied from three to four thousand volumes.

The School of Arts is located in a building centrally situated, but inconvenient in every other respect. Two thousand one hundred pounds have been collected towards the erection of a new building, the Society of Arts to change its name to the Watt Institution, "whereby the memory of Watt may for ever be connected with the promotion among a class of men to which he himself originally belonged, and of those mechanical arts from which his own usefulness and glory arose." The joint building committee appear to have allowed a cold caution to have paralysed the desire to secure an eligible plot of ground for the erection of the new building. Two years have unprofitably passed away, during which period land in Edinburgh has slowly increased in value, and the School of Arts has been languishing.

THE EDINBURGH PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION was established in 1846 in the adoption of a plan for extending the basis of the *Edinburgh Philosophical Association.* The operations of the original society were limited to procuring popular lectures at a cheap rate; but the new Institution was formed upon the model of the Manchester Athenæum, providing for its members a news-room, reading-room, library, evening classes, and lectures.

The system of management adopted in the first year was by sectional committees who took charge of separate departments, but this was found inefficient in many respects. The Secretary was chosen from among themselves: this arrangement was also productive of inconvenient and anomalous results, and the rules underwent several important alterations at the second annual meeting.

By the vigorous exertions of a few individuals a sufficient number of parties were induced to advance the requisite sum for purchasing eligible premises in one of the squares of the city.

The sums advanced consisted of shares bearing five per cent. interest, to be paid by a rental charged upon the general funds of the Institution.

In 1848 the Institution attained its highest point of prosperity. One thousand members were enrolled in its books, and the balance of funds applicable to the expenditure of the following year, after deducting the debt due by the Institution, was one hundred and twenty-nine pounds. During that year fifty-three lectures were delivered, viz.: eight on subjects of Physical Science; four on Mental Philosophy; six on History; eight on Political Economy; six on Music; six on Sculpture; and fifteen on subjects of Literature and general Education. The entire cost of these lectures was nearly five hundred pounds, but the sums received from visitors only amounted to one hundred and twenty-two pounds. classes for instruction in English, French, German and Italian, singing, drawing, fencing and mathematics, with a chess club and a debating society were opened, and received moderate support. No less than sixty-six different Journals are supplied to the news-room, and the number of weekly, monthly, and quarterly Reviews had in 1848, exceeded sixty; but considerable reduction both in the number of newspapers and magazines had taken place recently, owing to the diminution in the number of subscribing members. The library has upwards of two thousand volumes. In the basement or lower flat of the building is a well-furnished refreshment-room.

In the year 1848 a *Mechanics' Institution* was formed by and for working-men without the aid of patronage. The object of the founders was to secure the presence and the pence of the labouring classes, supplying them with instruction on such subjects as were excluded or only partially embraced in the abstract education furnished at the School of Arts. History, music, poetry, electricity, phonography, and such subjects of social and political economy as from time to time attract public attention, were its

principal features. It was a rule of this Institution "that females should be admitted to all its privileges *free*, as the small pittance received by them as wages was inadequate to bear an expenditure for education." Another regulation interdicted not only discussions on religious topics, but the receipt of sectarian magazines. After flourishing for a short time, the society was brought to a premature close on the charge of destroying its neutrality in religious matters by the acceptance of an historical lecture from the resident Unitarian Minister, and although the lecturer was guarded in his remarks, considerable offence was given. The committee, finding a rapid defalcation in the number of members, retired from office, after closing the accounts of the Institution, with every pecuniary liability discharged.

THE EDINBURGH MECHANICS' SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY, from the extent of its issues, may be regarded as the first among the libraries of Great Britain. As it is simply a circulating library, its operations will be recorded in the chapter on libraries.

GLASGOW.

The first Institution established by the young men of the middle class of society in Glasgow, was the *Commercial College*. This society aimed at providing a systematic course of instruction expressly adapted to the wants and convenience of commercial men. In the month of February, 1847, a logic class was opened, at which one hundred and twenty pupils attended. The class met four mornings each week at *Six* o'clock, in the hall of the Andersonian University, and the session extended over four months. In the second session the logic students were advanced to the study of political economy; and a new class for logic instituted.—The third and last session was devoted to rhetoric. The failure of this society arose from the "test" which the early hour of meeting presented, added to the deficiency of subjects of a directly practical

nature, and the absence of that innocent recreation which the wear and tear of a mercantile life demands. As Charles Dickens very faceciously observed:—The College "had a very meritorious character, but was of weak constitution, and expired when twelve months old from the exhausting effeets of getting up too early in the morning." The most important result of the Commercial College was, that of bringing into co-operation a number of intelligent young men who acted on the advice given to them by Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P., and formed an Institution upon the model of the Manchester Athenæum, which they designated—

THE GLASGOW ATHENÆUM. A provisional committee was formed in 1847, and it was determined that an attempt should be made to raise a fund of ten thousand pounds, by donations and redeemable shares of two pounds each, on the latter of which interest should be allowed. In a few months four hundred and fifty pounds were raised from donations, but the share lists only amounted to eight hundred pounds. In the month of June, 1847, a public meeting was called, at which it was even proposed to abandon the Institution, from the want of public support, but eventually it was resolved to make an attempt to call up subscriptions. Fortunately an opportunity offered at this period by which the Assembly Rooms, one of the finest buildings in the city, could be secured. This was not neglected by Mr. M. Provan, to whose energy the establishment of the Institution is mainly to be attributed, and after some complex negociations, the Athenæum of Glasgow commenced its career of prosperity with a course of lectures on Astronomy, gratuitously delivered by Dr. Nichol, in October, 1847. At this period the number of members was nine hundred and forty. "Within one month after the opening of the news-room, viz., on the fifteenth of November (when Dr. Hudson entered on his duties as Secretary of this Institution), the numbers had risen to fourteen life, one thousand three hundred and eighty-two annual, fifty-nine lady members, and one hundred

and fifty-seven quarterly subscribers: being a total of one thousand six hundred and twelve. Nine months later the number of members and subscribers had risen to two thousand one hundred and thirty-three."

While the Institution retains its present location, the news-room will form the most attractive feature. In the first year it was supplied with upwards of five hundred copies of newspapers. The magazine-room was also furnished with fourteen weekly, seventy-one monthly, and fifteen quarterly publications. The donations to the library in the first year amounted to one thousand one hundred and ninety volumes. Twenty-six lectures were delivered at the cost of one hundred and seventy-two pounds nett; eighty-two pounds having been received for visitors' admissions. The Classes also presented a gratifying feature in the first year of the society's operations, being attended by no less than five hundred and thirty-eight pupils. The morning class (half-past six to eight o'clock) for English grammar, was attended by forty students. In the evening classes for English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, mathematics, logic, and singing, three hundred and eighty-one pupils were enrolled. The discussion class was attended by seventy-eight members, and the chess club by eighteen persons. The ladies' French and Italian classes numbered together twenty-one subscribers. The coffee-room was handsomely fitted-up, and let at a rental of twenty pounds per annum.

In a pecuniary point of view, the most successful experiment of the year (1848) was the bazaar held under the especial patronage of her Majesty, in aid of the funds of the library. The ladies of Glasgow came forward with an energy and devotion highly creditable, and after many weeks of unwearied exertion, held the bazaar on the 22nd, 23rd, and 25th of March. The receipts during the three days amounted to three hundred and forty-seven pounds, and after clearing all expenses, the nett sum

of two hundred and seventy-three pounds was lodged in the bank, to the credit of the Institution, for the purchase of books. The library has subsequently grown into one of the most important and attractive features of the society.

The first Soirée of the Glasgow Athenæum was one of the most interesting and magnificent meetings ever held in the city of Glasgow. Representatives from all the different towns in Scotland attended, and men eminent in literature and science took an active share in the proceedings. Charles Dickens, Esq., presided on this occasion. The other speakers were the Right Hon. Adam Black, Lord Provost of Edinburgh; Sir John Maxwell, Baronet; Colonel Mure, of Caldwell, M.P.; Professor William Gregory, of Edinburgh; Professor Aytoun, of Edinburgh; Dr. Moir, (Delta;) Geo. Combe, Robert Chambers, and Archibald Alison, Esq., F.R.S.

In the following year, the prosperity of this Institution was prematurely checked, owing, in the first instance, to the engagement by the directors of those popular lecturers, Ralph Waldo Emerson and George Dawson. The factious proceedings which took place at a subsequent election for directors also contributed to occasion the loss of one thousand members at the conclusion of the first year's subscriptions. By a rigid economy in the various departments of the Institution, it is slowly regaining subscribers, and recovering from its financial difficulties; but the position and influence which it attained as the first among the literary Institutions of Scotland, have now been transferred to the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution.

Glasgow Mechanics' Institution.—(*See pages* 42,43.)—The scientific and artistical information which was given to mechanics in the Schools of Art and Mechanics' Institutions in the first ten years after their establishment, was considered as a means not only of improving the staple manufactures, but of raising those who were engaged in their production in intelligence and in morals. At a subsequent period it was found that the

single inducement of sending in models of new machines, and details of mechanical inventions, for the prizes annually offered for competition, was insufficient to secure the desired effect.

The Glasgow, the Newcastle, and the Devonport Mechanics' Institutions may be regarded as the only societies in which prizes for mechanical inventions, and models of important machines, are annually awarded. In the Glasgow Institution, the only prizes contended for in the last five years, have been the model of a balance revolving crane, and an air-pump, constructed on a new plan. The apathy to contend for premiums of this nature has been frequently deplored by the directors of the Institution; and they assign, as the most natural reason, the inadequacy of the reward compared with the labour and expense necessary to be bestowed upon a well-finished ingeniously constructed model, added to the few opportunities and leisure to produce them. Various prizes are annually awarded in this Institution for the best reports of the lectures delivered in the various classes, and for proficiency in the studies there set forth. The Birkbeck prize of two guineas commemorative of the eminent services of the late Dr. Birkbeck, for the best essay "On the origin, progress, and future prospects of Mechanics' Institutions," although annually offered for competition, has rarely found competitors; last year (1849) it was awarded to Mr. H. Macfarlane.

In 1831 the Glasgow Mechanics' Institution was removed to larger premises, erected for the society in Hanover Street. On the pediment of the building is a fine statue of James Watt, purchased by contributions of one shilling each from the students attending the Institution, in two successive years. The average number of members connected with this association during the ten years preceding 1840, exceeded five hundred, the whole of whom attended the evening classes. The attendance in these classes since that period has been as follows:

	Members.	Library issues.
1840	572	11,655
1841	794	„
1842	698	„
1843	723	„
1844	768	„
1845	1129	14,778
1846	835	12,352
1847	762	12,500
1848	588	8,278
1849	614	8,833

The number of pupils, chiefly working men, attending the classes the last five years is exhibited in the following return.

	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.
Chemistry	291	204	218	138	171
Mechanics	118	97	251	174	197
Anatomy, &c.	161	134	138	74	41
Grammar, &c.	245	—	90	—	67
Mathematics	118	—	—	40	68
Drawing General and Mechanical	309	337	—	29	18
	—	—	—	55	33

In 1846 there was a class for the study of history, attended by sixty-three pupils; in 1847 a singing class, attended by sixty-five students; in 1848 a physical geography class, with seventy-eight pupils; in 1849 a class for civil engineering and Land Surveying, attended by nineteen pupils; and in the winter session 1849-50 a class for discussion and mutual improvement.

This Institution is essentially a working man's society, and should be so regarded even when its members consisted of one-third "clerks and warehousemen." The position, the emolument, and the duties of the Glasgow clerk are in every respect inferior to those of the seal engraver, the engineer, and the cabinet maker, and hence it is that the *status* of the working mechanic in many large towns, from the pecuniary means at his command, is one of comparative independency; while the equally hard

worked warehouseman or packer is scarcely able to support his rising family, and to purchase his more expensive costume. To increase the monetary as well as the mental capital of the city clerk is unquestionably an object of the highest importance. By affording increased means, a taste for rational enjoyments may be produced, and those hours generally spent in listlessness and in foolish amusements, may be converted into periods rendered precious by the inculcation of enlightened and elevating principles. Habits of order, punctuality, and politeness, would be engendered, and flow from thence into the other relations and departments of life.

The classification of the members attending the evening classes of the Mechanics' Institution in the years 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848, and the readers in the library in the last year, is in equal proportion to the annual returns of the last twenty years.—The decrease in members is chiefly of the class drawn off to the Athenæum. The establishment of a Government School of Design will in part account for the other deficiency, as the calico printers and designers have naturally been withdrawn from the drawing classes of the Institution, and have connected themselves with the school especially established for their instruction.

	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.
Workmen in various trades	522	428	224	264	199
Employers and Professional Men.	75	96	92	64	66
Clerks and Warehousemen	396	294	264	140	152
Students, Teachers, &c.	41	17	20	17	23
	1034	835	600	485	440

The addition of a reading room has, during the last seven years, been found attractive in proportion to the extent of the periodical literature with which it has been supplied.

There is an excellent custom in this Institution of presenting free admissions to the lectures and library to poor apprentices of good character, who are known to be unable to pay the usual fees. The proportion is one free ticket to every twenty session tickets

disposed of. In this manner about two hundred and fifty poor apprentices have received the benefits arising from attendance in the principal classes, and from the perusal of works from the library, which now possesses upwards of five thousand volumes, chiefly of a solid and valuable character.

A recent attempt has been made to clear off the debt on the building, now amounting to eight hundred pounds; whenever the society possesses a building entirely its own, its directors may turn their attention to two valuable bequests which might be embraced and secured by this Institution. Its entire freedom from debt should secure to it the Atkinson bequest, which simply requires the addition, to the present features of the Institution, of lectures on political economy, to be annually delivered. This great *desideratum* for so flourishing a commercial community as the Scottish Metropolis of the West, should at once be obtained, as the property is of the value of several thousand pounds. The Haldane bequest, of nearly equal amount, for the encouragement of art, and especially painting, might also be secured.

There are several Mechanics' Institutions in the most populous districts into which this city is divided. At Calton and Parkhead, on the eastern or manufacturing side of Glasgow, are small educational societies, annually opened for the winter session, of six and eight months.

THE CALTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION *is a model society for factory districts.* The committee are chiefly working men; the members are nearly all mill hands; and the females who are employed in the cotton factories in the neighbourhood, form more than one-third of the whole number of members. The Institution has existed for sixteen years, and consists of a large hall on the first flat, the property of the members. The privileges of attending eighteen lectures, a drawing class, a natural philosophy class, and the receipt of books from a library of two thousand volumes, are conferred for a subscription of two shillings for three

months. The number of members in 1848 was three hundred, and in 1849 five hundred. The sum of ten pounds is annually expended on the library. A few years since the number of females attending the classes of astronomy and geography amounted to two hundred, of whom seven-tenths were mill girls.

The PARKHEAD SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION was established in 1837, and has had an annual average of nearly one hundred members. In 1849 it had one hundred and sixty members, males, paying two shillings and sixpence, and nine females, paying one shilling per annum. The library contains six hundred volumes; seventeen lectures are delivered in the year; and the rent is thirty shillings per annum. On the northern side of the city is the GORBAL'S SOCIETY; on the western is the ANDERTON INSTITUTION, with fifty members; and on the southern is the COWCADDEN'S MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, which numbered two hundred and twenty members in 1848, and two hundred and forty members in 1849. Lectures have been delivered weekly every winter in these societies, and they possess small libraries, from which books are delivered in the winter sessions. Drawing classes were the only flourishing evening classes in 1849.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION of Glasgow in its operations resembles the English philosophical societies, and will be noticed elsewhere.

THE GLASGOW ATHENÆUM in Argyle-street is an Institution admirably conducted as a private speculation. Messrs. Harthill and Salmon, the principal Newsvenders in Scotland supply their Athenæum with all the leading newspapers and magazines, and receive from subscribing members, and the payment of one penny for each visit from the general public, a sum sufficient to render the undertaking remunerative.

LEEDS.

THE LEEDS MECHANICS' INSTITUTION was established at the

close of the year 1824, to supply "to the mechanics and artizans of Leeds the means of acquiring a competent knowledge of those branches of science which are applied to the manufactures of the town, and for the further purpose of affording them pleasurable mental relaxation." The management, during the first ten years of its existence, was vested solely in proprietary members contributing two pounds for a share, and ten shillings annually.—Subscribers were admitted upon the payment of ten shillings annually, in half-yearly contributions. At the first annual meeting the number of members was two hundred and two, and subscribers three hundred and sixty-two, making a total of five hundred and sixty-four. The success which marked the commencement of the Institution was not continued, for the society did not obtain so large a share of members until its union with the Literary Society, in 1842. In 1831 the numbers were one hundred and thirty-four members to two hundred and eighty-four subscribers, making a total of four hundred and eighteen. In this year twenty lectures on subjects of physical science, and two on the nature and uses of wool were delivered. Five thousand nine hundred volumes were issued; and classes of mathematics, drawing, and chemistry, attended by one hundred and fifty pupils, were carried on during the winter months.

Owing to the objections entertained by some of the influential supporters of the Institution, not only were works of fiction and general literature excluded from the library, but even it has been asserted the admission of historical and biographical works was constantly opposed. It was not, therefore, to be expected that the Mechanics' Institution of Leeds should succeed in the same ratio as other societies. Indeed it is certain, that this exclusive principle led to the establishment, in 1834, of the Leeds Literary Institution, for the purpose of providing a library, comprising all works of value and interest in the English language. The Literary Society in the first year of its existence had eight hundred

and twenty-six members; in the second year eight hundred and sixty-three.

The Leeds Mechanics' Institution owes its chief success to an exhibition of arts and manufactures, which enabled its directors to purchase a large building, and eventually by its funds to absorb the Literary Society, with its valuable library, and debt of two hundred and sixty pounds. The exhibition was held in 1839, and realised one thousand six hundred and thirty pounds, after paying all expenses. The number of admissions was 183,913, comprising nearly one hundred thousand persons. The effect of so much instruction conveyed in rational amusement could not but be beneficial, and must have led to a better appreciation of the works of both nature and art. The present freehold building was built as a music saloon, and was purchased by the Leeds Mechanics' Institution for two thousand two hundred and fifty pounds, towards which sum four hundred and ten pounds were contributed by a few of the principal manufacturers in the town. Repairs and alterations, involving an outlay of eight hundred pounds, being needed, that sum was raised on mortgage. The building is sixty-four feet by thirty-six feet; the principal hall, containing an excellent gallery, is of nearly these dimensions; it is used without the slightest inconvenience both as library, lecture room, and reading room. On the lower floor are class rooms, committee room, and news room; on the basement is an excellent laboratory, class room, and various offices.

The combination of lecture room, news and reading room, in one spacious apartment, possesses many advantages; it requires but one attendant during the day; and by covering the front of the library shelves with shutters, or sheets of canvass, with rings at proportionate distances and corners, it is converted within an hour, by a re-arrangement of forms and removal of tables, into a convenient lecture hall.

The following table will show the operations of the Leeds

Mechanics' Institution, and the Literary Society, during the last ten years. The union of the two societies took place in 1842.

	MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.								Ordinary Income.	Extraordinary Income.	LECTURES.		Books and Binding.	Newspapers. Nett Cost.	Annual Rent and Interest.	Annual Library issues.	Number of Pupils in Evening Classes
	Life	Members. 15s.	Subscrbs. 15s.	Workmen. 12s.	Youths. 8s.	Ladies. 10s.	Ladies. 5s.	TOTAL.			Number Given.	Nett Cost.					
									£	£		£	£	£	£		
1839	—	92	600	166	—	—	—	858	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	140
1840	—	80	560	140	—	—	—	780	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	150
1841	5	77	288	327	—	—	—	697	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	190
1842	5	122	268	191	164	—	—	750	550	20	10	28	—	1	146	—	200
1843	5	132	248	207	178	—	—	770	550	—	27	42	114	44	45	30,000	170
1844	4	123	276	242	226	—	—	872	530	+459	43	67	110	10	51	34,331	204
1845	4	127	325	361	402	—	34	1253	610	—	45	75	110	3	30	42,500	278
1846	4	128	362	412	544	—	104	1554	800	60	31	66	120	30	28	52,804	281
1847	4	129	397	439	489	46	187	1691	1175	89	36	73	140	21	87	56,221	171
1848	4	143	379*	665	448	53	176	1868	1150	—	39	118	153	69	30	57,174	370
1849	4	138	421	466	304	53	195	1873	1300	—	54	96	122	40	30	52,741	148

* In 1848 a mutual improvement class, upon a subscription of sixpence per fortnight, was established. The subscribers to this class were admitted to the privileges of the Institution, and received instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Upwards of two hundred young men availed themselves of the advantages offered by the Institution in the first session.

† The sum of four hundred and fifty-eight pounds was received in 1844 as the proceeds of an Exhibition, which enabled the society to reduce the mortgage on the building to six hundred pounds, its present amount; but an attempt is now making, by a subscription list, to relieve the Institution from this debt. One hundred pounds has already been collected towards the desired object.

In July, 1845, the then secretary of the Institution (Dr. Hudson) submitted to the directors a plan for establishing a day school, so adjusted by a scale of masters' fees, that no liability

could attach to the funds of the Institution. The proposal met the cordial concurrence of the president, E. Baines, Esq., and the directors. In the second quarter, seventy-two pupils were entered; in the third, one hundred and twenty; and at the close of 1846, there were one hundred and thirty-nine scholars receiving the privileges of the Institution, such as books from the library, and attendance at all the lectures, as well as a sound commercial English education, for the sum of twelve shillings per quarter. In 1847 the number of pupils averaged one hundred and fifty, but in the following year the average was reduced to one hundred.

Two new departments were added to the Institution at the close of the year 1848. A philharmonic or musical society, and a mutual improvement class of subscribers. The latter was instituted for affording the educational and other advantages of the Institution to such youths and adults as were too poor to pay the half-yearly subscription in one sum. For sixpence per fortnight these persons were admitted to the evening classes of reading, writing, arithmetic, &c.; to the library, the lectures, the news and reading room, and the other departments. The number attending this class in January, 1850, was one hundred and eight.

The Leeds Government School of Design, formed by the directors of the Leeds Mechanics' Institution, will be referred to in the chapter on Schools of Design.

The Leeds Oddfellows' Institution has been attended by one hundred and forty-seven members in each of the last two years, including nineteen females. It possesses a library of one thousand two hundred volumes, issuing nine thousand eight hundred and seventy-six volumes in the year. Thirty lectures were delivered last year. Its evening classes afforded instruction to fifty members, and its reading room to a greater number. The subscription is fixed at one shilling per quarter for Oddfellows, and one shilling and sixpence per quarter to other persons.

The Holbeck and New Wortley Mechanics' Institution

was originated in a mutual improvement society. Its members are chiefly mill hands, and the extent of instruction it has afforded to this class of society, by means of its evening classes, is incalculable. This township, from being the most disreputable, has recently shown a great diminution in its criminal statistics. In 1846, the Institution numbered one hundred and fifteen members; in 1847, two hundred; in 1848, three hundred and eighty-four; and in 1849, two hundred and fifty-eight, including fifty-three females. The classes have undergone a more than corresponding diminution in the past year, numbering only sixty members. The library consists of one thousand two hundred and fifty-seven volumes, but the issues exceed ten thousand annually.

The Hunslet Mechanics' Institution is situated on the north-western side of Leeds, in the centre of a dense population of eighteen thousand inhabitants. Several flax and woollen mills, and extensive engine manufactories, are located in this district, yet the Institution has only been attended by sixty-seven members in 1846; one hundred and nineteen in 1847; seventy in 1848; and seventy-two in 1849. Lectures have been comparatively well attended, but evening classes have not succeeded. The library is the chief feature in the Institution, as it now contains one thousand three hundred volumes, including many popular works of fiction.

The Woodhouse Mechanics' Institution is located on the north-eastern side of the town of Leeds. In 1848 it had one hundred and sixty members, and in 1849 one hundred and twenty. A valuable female class is taught in a separate apartment, access to which is distinct from the regular entrance. Prizes were awarded in 1848 for the best form of letter writing, &c.

The Leeds Mutual Improvement Society was commenced in the beginning of 1844, by four young working-men, of very humble circumstances, who resolved to meet regularly at the house of one of the members, to improve themselves by mutual intercourse. Other young operatives, hearing of their meetings,

asked leave to join them; and the whole then adjourned to an old garden house on Richmond Hill, where their classes were for some time regularly held. Reading, writing, grammar, and arithmetic, were taught and learned amidst rakes, and hoes, and broken flower-pots. Numbers of eager listeners stood hanging round the door, the teacher (always one of the operatives themselves), dispensing his knowledge from the interior. Poor young men resorted to the garden-house *to learn to read.* The numbers went on increasing, and as winter drew nigh, and the nights became cold, the young men resolved to hire a room. No sooner said than done. The room was hired, and pupils increased. The charges made for instruction were only from one halfpenny to two-pence per week. New classes were formed; among others a discussion class, a chemistry class, and a French class. The room soon became too small, and again they had to remove, always gathering numbers as they advanced, until they were able to engage more extensive premises in a back yard off Kirkgate.

The number of members for the year 1850 is about eighty; and from the close of the year 1848 to December, 1849, the attendance in the classes averaged sixty. The present rate of subscription is threepence per week, which admits to various classes, to a library of three hundred volumes, and to a news room supplied with newspapers and periodicals. Upon a careful examination of the respective ages of the members the average is found to be twenty-three years. The committee is elected every *quarter.* The members consist chiefly of machine-makers, silk dressers, joiners, coach-makers, and shopkeepers.

The Philosophical Institution is a small society possessing an excellent museum; its operations are confined to the reading of lecture papers and the occasional engagement of professional lecturers.

The young men of the higher grade of the middle classes have no Institution in Leeds, suited to their tastes, hence it is desirable

that an Athenæum should be established.

The Holbeck Adult Mutual Improvement Society is a small association held together by the influence of Mr. John Holmes, an enterprising draper who has a large connection with the mill-hands of which he avails himself, rather for their moral, intellectual, and social improvement, than from any large pecuniary benefit which this connection affords.

The York Road Mechanics' Institute is a small society on the north-west side of the town, giving some promise of success in a poor neighbourhood.

LIVERPOOL.

There is no town in the kingdom in which there are so many temples dedicated to the improvement of mankind as in Liverpool, nor can any city afford equal evidence of the zeal of its merchant princes in raising mansions for the advancement of civilization. In the erection and partial endowment of the Collegiate and the Mechanics' Institution, abundant evidence is given that the people of Liverpool are fully impressed with the importance of this truism, that there can be no important and at the same time permanent improvement in the social condition of any people, except through the general progress of intelligence and information.

The Liverpool Mechanics' Institution, from its first establishment under the title of "School of Arts," in 1825, has had an unexampled and uninterrupted career of success. It has arisen from a small society, meeting in a chapel school-room, to by far the most extensive establishment of the kind in the kingdom. The building is erected on its own freehold, the gift of the Corporation, and forms an architectural ornament to the town, as well as a monument of the munificence of a wealthy community in the cause of education.

The first operations of this Institution were undertaken in a

chapel school room, where lectures on physical science were delivered, and a small circulating library was formed. At the close of the year 1825 the number of members had reached four hundred and fifty, but three years later they had fallen to two hundred and fifty, owing chiefly to the want of suitable accommodation, and to the greater activity displayed by the conductors of similar societies in the town. In 1829 the roll of members contained three hundred and fifty-seven names, and continued slowly to increase in the three succeeding years, until they exceeded five hundred.

The evening classes of this Institution were for a period of seven years the theme of general praise: the late Bishop of Norwich, Lord Brougham, and the Rt. Hon. Thomas Wyse, expressed their admiration at the arrangements of the night schools, and encouraged the Liverpool merchants to contribute liberally towards carrying on this powerful instrument of public good. The enjoyment which flows from the enlightened cultivation of literature and science was seen to be participated in by the daily labourer and the humble artizan who attended the classes and received the practical education, which is so important to the working-man. The joiner and cabinet maker was instructed in geometry and the principles of mechanics; the ships' carpenter was assisted by the theory of naval architecture, drawing and mathematics, navigation and mechanics; and those who sought mental improvement were instructed in the solid framework of language, which they might hereafter add to the embellishments of mind.

In the year 1840 the classes were divided into eighteen departments, conducted by twenty-six masters, and containing in the whole six hundred and fifty pupils. The instruction afforded consisted of English grammar, geography, history, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, navigation, chemistry, natural philosophy; the German, French, Latin, and Greek languages,

perspective, architectural, mechanical, landscape, and naval architectural drawing, painting, vocal music, and elocution. The ten years which have succeeded this report, although they have annually exhibited considerable variations both in the numbers and classes of persons attending this department of the Institution, have shown but little change in the course of study. The classes of natural philosophy and chemistry have been long discontinued owing to the persons attending the establishment representing a different grade of society. The working-mechanics who generally prefer the sterner studies have given place to others who attend the dancing, and the essay and discussion classes, as more congenial to their tastes. The cost of the class department has, on the average, amounted to seven hundred and fifty pounds per annum, and has been steadily increasing even with a diminished number of pupils.

In 1849 it was found that the charges incurred directly by the Institution for the maintenance of the evening classes amounted to a sum exceeding twenty shillings per annum for every pupil usually attending. Under these circumstances, of course it was impossible to adopt measures for placing the school on a self-supporting footing while the rules remained in force which entitled members, in addition to the enjoyment of their other priviliges, to attend the evening classes without any charge; to present sons and apprentices, at fees of five shillings per annum; and certain poor youths, at fees of ten shillings and sixpence per annum. It was accordingly resolved that these rules should be abolished, and the school divided into two sections. The first section consisting of classes for elementary instruction in English reading, grammar, composition, history and geography, writing and arithmetic; and the second section of more advanced classes. The terms of admission were fixed at the rate of fourteen shillings per annum for the first section, and twenty-six shillings per annum for the second section,

allowing members to attend the first section of the school without charge, or the second section at a charge of twenty shillings per annum, or the power of introducing two pupils to the first section of the school, at ten shillings per annum each, or one pupil to the second section, at a fee of twenty shillings per annum.

Since the period of these changes (June, 1849) the tickets formerly issued to sons, apprentices, and presentees have been gradually lapsing, while on the other hand, the quarterly tickets issued to pupils, have been progressively increasing. During the first quarter of 1850, three hundred and eighteen of these tickets have been issued to pupils paying, at an average rate, little less than twenty shillings per annum for their tuition. The average attendance has fallen off about one-fourth since 1849 in consequence of this department being placed on a self-supporting basis. A new regulation requiring the additional payment of one shilling per quarter from pupils in the evening schools for the use of the library, has partially deprived the most important section of the subscribers of the benefits of the library, and in consequence, reduced its readers by three hundred and fifty, and its issues by eleven thousand, in a period scarcely exceeding six months. The new system of economy and advance in the price at which instruction in the Institution is to be obtained has proved a complete failure. Library, lectures, classes, schools, and finances, alike afford unmistakeable evidences of a depression from March, 1849, to March, 1850, greater than at any period in the last twelve years, and which it is certain cannot be solved by any proof of an increase of members in other societies in the town.

It will be seen from the annexed statistical report of the operations of the Institution, that it afforded instruction to one thousand four hundred individuals annually for ten years, and it gave employment to a staff of from forty to fifty masters, besides the secretary, librarian, sub-librarian, cashier, curator and other officers.

	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850
Life Members	512	523	531	539	556	565	603	621	627	630	634
Annual ditto	1595	1575	1617	1204	1357	1591	1506	1307	987	740	505
Quarterly Subscribers	43	9	17	16	14	32	——	——	——	158	318
Sons of Members	655	571	558	538	450	342	324	243	192	126	——
Apprentices of ditto	266	261	284	273	250	234	232	213	238	194	——
Presentees of ditto	——	211	374	401	417	286	268	227	228	313	——
Ladies	389	362	386	404	522	560	503	387	299	181	——
Daughters of Members	——	——	——	——	40	107	117	52	68	40	——
Day School Pupils	——	——	——	——	9	23	20	12	5	5	——
Subscribers to Library only	——	——	——	——	6	23	40	25	40	21	——
Sailors	——	——	——	——	——	——	——	21	13	16	——
	3460	3512	3767	3375	3621	3763	3598	3123	2697	2324	1457
Number of Lectures	80	90	80	80	85	82	——	87	82	89	53
Gross cost of Lectures £	550	495	444	415	512	——	——	831	870	702	——
Nett „ „ £	466	416	269	262	402	——	——	807	756	640	——
Cost of Books for Library £	261	260	355	452	166	——	——	215	——	——	——
Issues from the Library	58,000	60,024	85,924	88,000	85,245	81,437	——	83,234	76,644	54,254	20,300
Pupils in Evening Classes	650	700	650	530	——	380	——	460	420	——	318
„ in Lower School	470	538	575	576	586	666	——	640	620	——	——
„ in High School	356	336	318	270	——	265	——	184	164	——	——
„ in Girls' School	——	——	——	——	——	336	——	276	279	——	——
Persons under Instruction	1476	1574	1543	1375	586	1647		1566	1483		318

The preceding statement with regard to the evening schools will explain the reasons which induced the directors to abolish several classes of members and nominations, occasioning the insertion of many blanks in the return of the year ending March, 1850.

The lecture and the library departments have been conducted with great liberality and success; and the Liverpool Mechanics' Institution has not only been the last among the societies in the country to give up the system of complete courses of lectures, but it has made the dangerous experiment of supplying by all the lectures in one session a complete course of ancient and modern history.

From 1840 to 1846 a period of seven years, the directors reported an attendance varying from seven to fifteen hundred at the lectures; but in 1847 they complained of the want of attention on the part of the visitors, and in 1849 they reported that the average attendance had diminished to three hundred persons. A careful analysis of the lectures delivered in six years confirms the general statement—that the comparative failure of the lecture department has been the result of a change in the public taste, and has not originated either in the character or quality of the engagements which have been subsequently effected.

Lectures.	1840—1	1843	1845	1847	1848	1849	Total.
Physical Science	34	13	24	36	25	32	164
Mental Science	12	9	—	11	4	10	46
Literature and Education..	13	34	23	26	37	29	162
Fine Arts	15	6	14	6	8	4	53
Music and the Drama....	16	18	19	8	8	14	83
Total..	90	80	80	87	82	89	508
Number of Courses	15	24	22	19	17	21	118

The lecture arrangements for the winter session 1849—50, consisted of a series of connected courses or sections of history,

rather than a succession of lectures on a great variety of unconnected topics. This course of proceeding was adopted from a conviction that it was better calculated than any other to extend really useful knowledge, and to cultivate habits of profitable study among the hearers. Although this change has been regarded as more beneficial to the few who attend with regularity, it has met with some opposition from its general unsuitableness to the taste of the larger proportion of members, and its tendency to weaken, if not to destroy, one of the great features of the Institution.

The zealous individuals who founded and laboured to establish the Liverpool School of Arts, had no expectation that the Institution which was intended for the labouring classes of the community, in which they might receive the advantages of education suited to the part they were to sustain in after life, would develop itself by the addition of day schools for the children of the middle classes and the wealthy, until its original features should be lost in a great commercial College, wherein the instruction of youth and infants of both sexes should be held of equal if not greater importance than the improvement of the adult.

The First or Lower School was designed for the sons of those whose means were too limited to provide their children with a good classical education. The course of instruction was adapted to the wants and expectations of the class of pupils for whom it is intended, and the subscription was fixed at ten shillings per quarter for the sons of members, and twelve shillings and sixpence for others, with two shillings and sixpence per quarter additional, for the use of books, slates, writing and exercise books. In 1844 the fees were raised to twelve shillings and sixpence per quarter for sons of members, and fifteen shillings for others, with the half crown fee for the use of books, &c. Drawing, natural philosophy, and chemistry, are included in the general instruction imparted. The school was suspended for a short time in 1837,

owing to the fire, but in March, 1838, the number of pupils was two hundred and twenty-two; in 1839 it was four hundred and twenty, and steadily rose to six hundred and fifty.

The High School was opened in 1838, and for many years the general plan of education embraced as many subjects as could be conveniently taught, but in 1842 an attempt was made to allow parents and teachers to omit certain portions of the course, that greater attention might be devoted by some of the pupils to the classical, or to the strictly commercial features of instruction; but this permission was soon afterwards withdrawn, as it was found necessary to provide a greater unity of purpose and action in the business of the school. The fees of the High School are two pounds twelve shillings and sixpence per quarter for the sons of members, and two pounds eighteen shillings per quarter for others, with four shillings and sixpence per quarter additional for the use of books, slates, &c. A Preparatory High School has also been established, to which the fees are one pound eleven shillings and sixpence per quarter for sons of members, and one pound sixteen shillings and sixpence for others, with the four shillings and sixpence additional.

The number of pupils attending the day schools has recently suffered so great a diminution that the exact state of the schools is carefully withheld from the public.

This Institution has derived great advantage from the three exhibitions of fine arts, natural history, and manufactures, which have been held within its walls. From this source the sum of five thousand pounds has been raised for the building fund and for alterations in the premises. The exhibition of 1840 occupied fifteen rooms. The total sum received during the six weeks and two days it was opened to the public, was three thousand three hundred and forty pounds. The admission charge was one shilling from nine until four o'clock, and sixpence from four until ten, p.m. Children, sixpence; season tickets, two shillings and sixpence.

The entire expense was one thousand two hundred and forty-six pounds, leaving a clear balance of two thousand and ninety-three pounds for the Institution. Nearly one hundred thousand persons visited this exhibition.

The exhibition of 1842 was equally successful. The total receipts amounted to four thousand pounds, and the expenses to nearly two thousand pounds, leaving a clear gain of two thousand ponnds. The average of the daily receipts was about one hundred and eight pounds. Gratuitous admission was given to the pupils in the different charity schools of the town, the police, the military forces, and three hundred and eighty domestic servants. The total number of visitors amounted to ninety-seven thousand. The exhibition occupied twenty large rooms, and a shed was erected in the High School yard, for the reception of Mr. Catlin's extensive collection of North American Indian dresses, which formed an interesting part of the exhibition.

The exhibition of 1844 was opened for six weeks and two days. The receipts amounted to four thousand and seventy-six pounds, and after paying all expenses, the Institution gained one thousand one hundred pounds. Three thousand persons descended in the diving bell, which formed one of the attractions; and twenty thousand children, belonging to the various charity schools in Liverpool were admitted once gratuitously. Patent ice, cartoons, dissolving views, a panorama, with evening concerts, formed the most interesting portions of the 1844 exhibition.

The Institution possesses an excellent museum of natural history, which has been enriched with many rare specimens, chiefly the presentation of persons connected with the shipping of the town; but this department is regarded with so little interest by the members, that the directors, after expending four hundred pounds, admitted in their report that it had failed to produce the slightest benefit to the Institution. In this

particular, the Liverpool Institute has only afforded an additional proof that local museums are not valued by the community.

In the formation of a Sculpture gallery, the directors of the Institution have been more fortunate, as this department has proved of the highest value to the drawing classes of the day and evening schools. The gallery is enriched with casts of many of the finest statues, including the Apollo Belvidere, the dying and fighting Gladiators, casts of the finest portions of the Elgin marbles, and numerous busts and bas-reliefs by Michael Angelo, Thorwaldsen, and Flaxman; Friezes from the Parthenon and Erectheum. The collection is, as a whole, amply sufficient to serve the practical purposes of any drawing academy, and is superior to the collections to be found in most of the Government provincial Schools of Design. At one exhibition of the Liverpool Academy there were eight paintings by teachers of the Institution, and twenty-one by artists who had formerly been pupils in the Institution.

With a view to facilitate the progress of the day school pupils in after-life, the committee opened a register, in which were recorded the names of those boys who wished to obtain situations as apprentices, and of those merchants and others who desired to obtain boys as junior clerks or apprentices. As no boy was recommended whose teachers did not bear testimony to his progress and good conduct, it was thought that, not merely would an opportunity be afforded to employers of procuring suitable apprentices, but an inducement to exertion and good behaviour would be held out to the boys. Very few availed themselves of this advantage, not because the privilege was not known, but because it was not appreciated.

The Institution has not adopted the system of holding annual soirées, but in 1841 and 1842 tea parties were given, with some degree of success.

The younger members of this Institution have testified their regard for the dissemination of the benefits of instruction, by

entering into a subscription for the support of a free school for the children of the poor, in the most populated portion of the town. That which they commenced as an experiment, has proved so successful, that they have been obliged to reject a number of applicants, for want of accommodation. A second school has been subsequently opened, at which the average attendance is fifty boys and forty girls. At the first-named school the attendance has averaged forty-six. The boys receive instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, three evenings in each week, by an engaged teacher; the girls are attended by *voluntary* assistants.

THE NORTHERN MECHANICS' INSTITUTION was originally established in the North Corporation School, at Liverpool, but the use of the room being withdrawn, the Institution was completely disorganised. After remaining quiescent for a time, it reappeared in the Concert Hall, Lord Nelson-street, and its proceedings have since been carried on in that building. Its objects embrace Saturday evening concerts, weekly lectures, a library of reference, and a news room. The hall, in which concerts and lectures are given, is capable of accommodating two thousand five hundred persons, and it is not unusual for concerts to be attended by that number, though the average attendance is about one thousand three hundred. The lectures are given every Thursday evening. The news room is supplied with sixty-six newspapers and fourteen periodicals, and is attended by about one hundred and twenty visitors each day. The library of reference, kept in the news room, contains nine hundred volumes. The lecture and concert season commences in September, and terminates about April.

There are no rates of subscription to this Institution, but separate charges for each visit to each department. Thus, the charge for admission to the news room is one penny each time; to the lectures, the charges are according to the different parts of the room, one penny, threepence, and sixpence; and to the concerts, threepence, sixpence, and one shilling. The receipts in this

manner obtained have been found sufficient to defray the expenses. Prizes were offered by the committee of this Institution for the best essays, *by working men*, "On the Influence of cheap rational Amusement on the Working Classes," and the number of essays sent in was sixty-eight. The prizes were awarded on the 10th April, 1849, at a soirée, at which the Earl of Sefton presided.

THE ROSCOE CLUB was established in 1847, upon the plan of the Athenæum of Manchester, and Whittington Club of London, for affording those means of refined social intercourse which are best adapted to antagonize the temptations by which young men are surrounded, and to elevate them in the scale of morality and intelligence. The means by which these objects are sought to be attained are by refreshment, news, and reading rooms, a library, lectures, concerts, classes, conversazioni societies for the practice of dramatic reading and criticism, chess, discussions, a gymnasium, and out-door recreations in the summer. The refreshment rooms are so arranged as to meet the wants of a numerous class of young men, whose position, separated from their relatives, debars them from the enjoyment of domestic comforts. This department has been rendered lucrative to the Institution, which is not generally the case with Institutions of this nature. The Athenæums of Manchester and Glasgow may be cited as instances in point. At the close of the year 1850, the number of members was seven hundred and fifty; and at the present time (March, 1850) they exceed seven hnndred, two-thirds of whom are quarterly subscribers, paying at the rate of twenty-five shillings per annum. The total number of members, however, by the addition of one hundred and seven associate and forty-five life members, exhibits a total of eight hundred and fifty-eight.

The chief items in the annual expenditure of the society consist of rent, two hundred and sixty pounds; taxes, eighty-three pounds; salaries, two hundred pounds; newspapers and magazines,

nett, one hundred and fifty pounds; gas, fuel, &c., one hundred pounds; and advertising and printing, one hundred pounds.

The lectures have been gratuitous, and are now delivered under the title "Conversazioni," which embraces,—first, a lecture, and then a conversation upon it, concluding with music. The leading feature in this club, as in the societies of the Manchester Athenæum, is *self-development.*

THE RAGGED SCHOOLS of the Roscoe Club were originated in 1849, by a few of the more active members of the club. They have been supported altogether by the voluntary contributions of members, the originators giving personal superintendence as well as pecuniary aid. The society has no responsibility in connection wsth them, as their management is confined to a committee of subscribers.

THE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTION OF LIVERPOOL is a Literary and Scientific Society established on the sectarian principle, in contradistinction to the Mechanics' Institution. The establishment comprises three distinct day schools, at different rates of charge, with separate apartments, play-grounds, divisions of the lecture hall, &c., to each, so as to accommodate the three great classes of society without infringing on their prejudices and dignity. The Institution is encumbered with a heavy debt, which has recently obliged the directors to make the schools self-supporting. Lectures are delivered by eminent men on two evenings in every week, except during the summer and winter vacations. The lectures delivered during the last seven years exhibit as great a variety of subjects as those of the Liverpool Mechanics' Institution. The terms of admission are regulated as in a theatre, the lower gallery being one shilling and sixpence for a single admission, or one pound eleven shillings and sixpence per annum for gentlemen, and fifteen shillings for ladies; to the upper gallery sixpence for a single admission, or ten shillings and sixpence per annum; to the body of the hall one shilling

for a single admission, or twenty-one shillings per annum for gentlemen, and ten shillings and sixpence for ladies. The Institution possesses a small library open to the members at an extra charge of two shillings per annum. The subscription tickets to the lectures have the unusual privilege of being transferable amongst the members of a family. Bazaars and Exhibitions have been held annually in aid of the funds of the Institution, which, notwithstanding the frequent donations and canvassing for subscriptions, are still in a depressed state.

THE LIVERPOOL SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE FINE ARTS was established in 1814, for the delivery of lectures not only for the instruction of *youth* in the different branches of science and literature, but to supply a rational source of information and recreation for persons more advanced in life, who might thus be made acquainted with the progress of literature and science. For a period extending over fourteen years lectures were delivered on philology, history, political economy, chemistry, natural history, astronomy, agriculture, and natural philosophy. The Natural History society was united with this Institution in 1844. The annual subscription is ten shillings and sixpence, and the number of ordinary members one hundred and thirty. The directors have not extended their operations so far as to embrace the instruction of youth, and from this neglect may be partially ascribed the formation of a LITERARY AND COMMERCIAL INSTITUTION, in 1835, which existed for a few years, and the more recent establishment of the Roscoe Club.

THE LIVERPOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE is a society of Sunday school teachers, possessing a good theological and historical library. The operations of this association is referred to in the chapter on Church of England Mutual and Religious Improvement Societies; and the Liverpool Apprentices,' Mechanics' and Brougham Institutions, in pages 44 to 48.

MANCHESTER.

THE MANCHESTER ATHENÆUM was formed with the view of establishing in Manchester an Institution which should be attractive as well as useful, social as well as literary and scientific, and which should unite within itself the incentives as well as the means of intellectual cultivation. Hitherto there had existed no Institution in this large manufacturing community adapted to the wants of the intelligent middle classes, and accessible to them at a reasonable charge. Professional men of all grades, quiet men of business, as well as the multitudes of young men employed as clerks in warehouses, and in retail establishments, had no place to which they could resort, for the perusal of the newspapers and other periodicals, or for social intercourse or mutual instruction.

The Athenæum originated with the late John Walker, Richard Cobden, M.P., James Heywood, M.P., and Edward Worthington. These young men, then unknown, and without influence in the town, proposed the formation of an Institution which in the first instance should be limited to a rented room, over a stationer's shop. Mr. Richard Cobden was deputed to wait on Sir Thomas Potter, who at once proposed the erection of a building worthy of the town, and subscribed as an earnest of his wish the sum of five hundred pounds. On the 28th October, 1835, a public meeting was held under the presidency of the chief officer of the town, at which many influential merchants attended, and gave their support to the project, as well as their approval of the fundamental laws submitted for adoption. The rate of subscription was fixed at thirty shillings per annum. It was also resolved that a fund of at least ten thousand pounds should be raised, for the purpose of erecting a suitable building in a central situation; within a week, three-fourths of that sum, or nearly seven thousand pounds, was taken up in ten pound shares, and the whole amount shortly afterwards subscribed.

"The Athenæum was opened on the 1st January, 1836, in rooms temporarily engaged for the purpose in the Royal Institution, which were soon found too small for the large number of young men who were desirous of obtaining access to the advantages it afforded. During that year, plans for the erection of the present building were decided upon, and on the 26th May, 1837, the foundation stone was laid by the then president, James Heywood, M.P. The opening was celebrated on the 28th October, 1839.

According to Mr. Barry's designs, the whole of the ground floor was laid out as one large news room, eighty-six feet long by fifty-five feet wide, yet formed into three divisions, by a screen of columns; an arrangement found requisite to afford support to the partition walls of the upper floors. The entrance consists of a projecting porch, with a flight of steps leading up to and continued through it. On each side of this, extending to the inner entrance doors, are two small rooms used as a newspaper-file room, porter's lodge, and a library of reference and corresponding room. On the upper floor are committee and class rooms; two spacious apartments, intended for lecture room and library, now underlet, and occupied as the Courts of Bankruptcy. On the floor above them are other class rooms, together with a large lecture theatre, capable of seating eight hundred persons. In the basement story, besides the offices requisite for the establishment, there is a coffee room, with ample accommodation for one hundred and thirty persons at one time, a spacious gymnasium, chess, and smoking rooms. The entire cost of this building was eighteen thousand pounds, towards which the sum of twelve thousand pounds was subscribed, and a mortgage of six thousand pounds effected to complete the works. The shareholders have never received nor asked for a dividend; indeed the heavy annual charges upon the building—

Interest of Mortgage, &c.	£240
Chief rent	£310

constitute a rent higher than the Institution can well bear. As a proof:—these heavy charges, with taxes, amounted in 1842 to as much as the entire income derived from the members and subscribers.

The enthusiasm with which the Athenæum was regarded for the first three years of its existence, induced the directors to permit an unlimited expenditure, probably under the expectation that a similar amount of yearly receipts would always be raised. During the first five years the annual cost of lectures, concerts, newspapers, and books, exceeded one thousand pounds, occasioning an excess of outlay over income of about four hundred pounds per annum. This state of mismanagement continued until the liabilities amounted to one thousand six hundred pounds, and the increasing demands of creditors pressed themselves upon the serious notice of the directors. In October, 1841, after a full discussion of the subject with the members, it was decided to raise the subscription from thirty to forty shillings per annum, with the privilege of paying the subscriptions in quarterly instalments. The effect of this futile attempt to increase the prosperity of a community by taxing its members, soon exhibited itself by a decline in numbers from seven hundred and eighty to four hundred and eighty.

		Ordinary	Life	Total.
1841	First Quarter	1094	89	1183
„	Second Quarter	911	90	1001
„	Third Quarter	686	96	782
„	Fourth Quarter	709	100	809
1842	First Quarter	466	106	572
„	Second Quarter	374	108	482
„	Third Quarter	372	108	480
„	Fourth Quarter	418	108	526

In 1842 a committee was appointed to consider what steps were most advisable to be taken to clear off the large amount of debt owing by the Institution. A subscription was commenced, and proving unsuccessful, a resolution was passed by the directors that

the Athenæum *should be closed.* At a subsequent meeting it was resolved, "that the Athenæum could no longer be carried on in its then existing form, and that some change must be made to save the tottering Institution from its fall." At that time the number of members had dwindled down to four hundred and eighteen, and the debts hanging over the Institution had augmented to upwards of three thousand four hundred pounds. Under such discouraging circumstances, it is not to be wondered at that the utmost degree of despondency pervaded the minds of the friends of the Athenæum.

At the special general meeting of the members held December 19th, 1842, it was resolved, "that the rate and mode of payment be altered to twenty-five shillings per annum, so as to admit of a larger number of members; that the expenses of the building be reduced, and that an effort to liquidate the debt should be made." An active canvass was instituted, and within a month the members were increased to seven hundred and eighty-six; at the close of the first quarter they numbered nine hundred and twenty; in the second quarter eight hundred and eighty-two; in the third quarter eight hundred and ninety-four; and in the fourth quarter (the close of the first year of reduced subscription) one thousand three hundred and seventy-three members.

Considered in a pecuniary point of view, the amount of subscriptions received during the year 1843 nearly equalled that received in 1837 and 1838; exceeded the amount received in 1839 by fifty-seven pounds, and this under the thirty shillings subscription. The increase in the amount of subscriptions of the year 1843 over 1841, under a partial rate of thirty shillings and forty shillings, was two hundred and thirty-seven pounds, whilst the excess over 1842, entirely under the forty shillings subscription, was no less than five hundred and eighty-eight pounds in the amount of subscriptions, and of nine hundred and seventy-eight pounds in the total receipts.

In order to reduce the heavy charge on the building, the directors

in 1843 concluded an arrangement with the Court of Bankruptcy for letting the second floor to them for a term of fourteen years, at a rent of three hundred pounds per annum, which tenancy continues in force at the present time without serious inconvenience to any of the departments of the Institution.

Having by a diminished expenditure, a rigid economy, and a large increase of members, endeavoured to secure the success of the new arrangements, the next step was to liquidate the debts. A Bazaar was determined on, and conducted with great spirit. The total gross receipts, including donations prior to and at the bazaar, and profits at the soirée, amounted to one thousand eight hundred and forty-six pounds, and after deducting for expenses two hundred and eighty pounds, a nett surplus of one thousand five hundred and sixty-six pounds was left. Subsequent to the bazaar an active canvass for donations to complete the required sum of three thousand four hundred pounds was set on foot. From this source seven hundred and ninety-two pounds was realized, which, with one thousand five hundred and sixty-six pounds from the bazaar, made two thousand three hundred and fifty-eight pounds.

The claiments upon the Institution having received a statement from the board, agreed that the sum of money owing for chief rent and mortgage (five hundred and thirty pounds) should be paid forthwith and declared their readiness to give a legal discharge to the Institution on their receipt of the sum of two thousand one hundred and twenty-five pounds, the remaining sum of seven hundred and eight pounds eight shillings and eightpence to be considered a debt of honour, to be discharged as soon as the circumstances of the Institution would permit. Towards this final sum the claiments liberally promised to subscribe between three hundred and four hundred pounds.

In the following year the directors raised the further sum of three hundred and twenty-two pounds, and discharged the

Athenæum from all legal responsibility as well as the debt of honour, and were enabled to congratulate the members upon being entirely free of all demands, either legal or equitable in respect of this heavy debt of three thousand three hundred and sixty-four pounds.

The energy displayed in these transactions is highly creditable to the active members of the Institution, and especially to Mr. Edward Watkin, Mr. James Edwards, and Mr. Peter Berlyn, who considered that they had had a fitting opportunity of proving to the founders of the Athenæum, that they could, and had rescued this valuable Institution from an untimely end. Elated with their success, they determined to make an effort to clear off the mortgage debt upon the building, amounting to six thousand pounds. In March, 1845, one thousand pounds were subscribed, which sum was increased in the following year to nearly two thousand pounds; but owing to the apathy of the chief officers of the Institution and mortgage committee for 1847 and 1848, only eight hundred pounds was collected. A recent change of officers and the transfer of the business of the mortgage committee into the hands of the acting officers of the Institution has already given evidence that renewed energy is being devoted to this important object, as well as towards inducing the original shareholders, who have never received one shilling interest, to relinquish their shares in favour of the Institution. Should this be accomplished, the Manchester Athenæum might be efficiently and liberally managed from the income derived from one thousand annual and quarterly members. The number of members subscribing to the Institution on the first of April, 1850, was one thousand two hundred and thirty-four, and one hundred and thirty-one life members.

The following is a condensed statement of the operations of the Manchester Athenæum from its commencement, in 1836, to 1849, a period of fourteen years.

INCOME, &c.

Year	Average No. of paying Membrs	Life Membrs	Total	Rate of Subscrptn	Ordinary Income.				Loss, including Liabilities.
					Subscriptions.	Life and Don.	Other sources	Total	
1836	1095	55	1150	30/	1765	1106	184	3055	
1837	952	57	1009	30/	1484	60	302	1846	
1838	995	60	1055	30/	1485	60	419	1964	
1839	900	60	960	30/	1421	—	420	1841	3364
1840	1168	70	1238	30/	1721	160	336	2237	
1841	850	100	950	30/	1241	292	326	1859	
1842	408	108	516	40/	890	25	267	1182	
1843	1018	117	1135	25/	1478	60	622	2160	—
1844	1607	128	1735	25/	2338	15	1300	3653	—
1845	2071	130	2200	25/	2838	40	1151	4029	—
1846	2328	130	2458	25/	3027	—	1083	4110	
1847	1650	130	1780	25/	2056	—	591	2647	865
1848	1343	130	1473	25/	1746	25	661	2432	
1849	1014	130	1144	25/	1301	—	560	1861	—

EXPENDITURE, &c.

Year	Newspapers.		Library,		Lectures.				Concrts loss.	Rent, Taxes, Interest	Law.
	Gross	Nett.	Bks.	Bndg.	No. given	Total Cost.	Gain.	Loss.			
1836	586	557	830	—	83	245	—	237	—	333	50
1837	470	410	231	43	53	234	—	212	—	392	58
1838	415	325	279	47	73	367	—	367	7	369	21
1839	401	310	179	76	60	322	—	260	56	776	—
1840	444	362	139	44	43	356	—	292	—	481	—
1841	305	237	198	—	30	184	—	127	—	358	—
1842	211	147	84	—	23	75	—	54	—	755	—
1843	288	243	212	—	51	132	—	76	23	810	8
1844	338	253	345	—	67	538	100	—	22	622	10
1845	406	306	500	104	81	800	—	321	50	615	90
1846	482	386	488	105	76	903	—	374	133	373	10
1847	312	215	184	59	61	344	—	246	57	675	—
1848	405	325	158	52	30	233	—	108	70	441	30
1849	350	280	78	37	29	42	—	36	1	590	—

It will be seen from the above that a large increase of members has not always been attended with pecuniary beneficial results. The experience of this Institution has proved that, even in

favourable times, an increased expenditure has been necessary to obtain a large accession of members. In 1846, the year in which the number of members was greater, and the income considerably larger than it ever has been, the expenditure of the Manchester Athenæum exceeded the income of that year by four hundred and fifty pounds.

The news-room from the commencement of the Institution in 1836, has undoubtedly been the principal feature of attraction. It has been constantly supplied with London, Provincial, Scotch, Irish, and Foreign Journals, and with nearly one hundred copies of various weekly, monthly, and quarterly publications. Upwards of five thousand pounds have been expended on newspapers in thirteen years. This room has been opened on Sundays, except during the hours of morning and afternoon service: but a great change has recently taken place, and very few of the members have visited the room in the years 1849—50.

The library contains about fifteen thousand volumes, from which issues to the extent of eight hundred and fifty thousand have been made. The average daily delivery for the last seven years has been two hundred and sixty volumes, but on several occasions five hundred volumes have been issued to subscribers in one day. The entire sum expended in the purchase of fifteen thousand volumes has been five thousand pounds, of which three thousand eight hundred pounds have been drawn from the funds of the Institution. One-third of the amount of reading supplied by this library consists of works of fiction.

Lectures have been delivered twice a week during eight months in each year. Music, dramatic readings, and history, are among the few subjects which have drawn large audiences, the lecturer has, in too many instances, been rather the object of attraction than the lecture.

Analysis of lectures delivered at the Manchester Athenæum from its establishment in October, 1835, to November, 1849,—14 years:

Physical Science—		
Astronomy	45	
Electricity	14	
Chemistry	61	
Geology	29	
Anatomy and Physiology	29	
Botany	16	
Other Branches	22	
Mechanical Science	8	
Manufactures	6	
		230
Mental and Moral Philosophy		24
Literature, History, and Education—		
General and Polite Literature	44	
Education	32	
History	35	
Biography	20	
Voyages and Travels	11	
Natural History	20	
		162
Fine Arts—		
Painting, Design, &c.	54	
Poetry and the Drama	172	
Music	104	330
Total		746

A careful analysis of these lectures only produces an additional proof that the tendency of the Athenæum, like other popular Literary Institutions has, during the last seven years, been towards light and meretricious subjects; this is apparent in the selection of books for the library, as well as in the lectures themselves.

	First 7 years.	Last 7 years.
Lectures—Science, Physical	173	57
„ Science, Mental	—	24
„ Literature and Education	54	108
„ Fine Arts	125	205
Total	352	394

The classes of the Manchester Athenæum have never been numerously attended. Classes for drawing, book-keeping, mathematics, and instrumental music have been attempted, and failed. Several boards of directors have tried the experiment of classes *free of charge*, and classes with a small entrance fee, but without success. The language classes, French and German, have been continued with unequal results, the number of pupils ranging each session from twenty to fifty, even when the roll of members has exceeded two thousand. In 1850, Spanish and Italian classes were established, and have been continued.

The Gymnastic Club is a branch of the Institution that may be considered one of its principal supports, as it numbers amongst its members some of the steadiest adherents to the Athenæum. During the summer months the exercises are carried on in a field about a mile from the Institution, where the healthful recreation of cricket, archery, quoits, and other out-door amusements are enjoyed; and in the winter season the room appropriated to gymnastic exercises is nightly crowded.

The Essay and Discussion Society was formed soon after the opening of the Athenæum, and has been a very prominent feature of the Institution. Its meetings are held once a fortnight during the winter season, when an essay is read by one of the members, and afterwards a discussion takes place. The attendances on all occasions are very numerous, including a sprinkling of the fair sex. For some years the annual soirées of this society were looked forward to with great interest, especially as each member had the privilege of introducing a lady, and after the discussion was concluded an adjournment took place to the news-room that the remainder of the evening might be appropriated to dancing. By the rules the members are prohibited from discussing subjects of present party politics; but the meetings most numerously attended have been those where the rules have been evaded by an undefined notice of the subject to be debated.

A dramatic reading society is the best elocution class that can be formed in a literary society, and if well conducted may become a pleasing and a permanent branch of the Institution. Its only evil is a proneness to amateur stage representation; but if this tendency is judiciously repressed, the society may become a valuable aid in the occasional displays which the coffee party and the social soirée afford. The dramatic society of the Manchester Athenæum has been nearly three years in active operation, holding weekly meetings. The vocal and instrumental music societies of the Athenæum, as well as the chess club, are also flourishing departments.

Monster Soirées were originated by the Manchester Athenæum, and were for many years features of great national interest: their chief merit has been in bringing before the public distinguished authors and literary men, that they might aid in diffusing knowledge, and by their advocacy induce the public to participate in the intellectual advantages afforded by such Institutions.

The first Soirée of the Manchester Athenæum was held (in connection with a bazaar in aid of the funds of the Institution) in the Free Trade Hall, on the 5th October, 1843, under the presidency of Charles Dickens. There were upwards of one thousand six hundred ladies and gentlemen present, and amongst the principal guests were Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P.; Thomas Milner Gibson, Esq., M.P.; Dr. Lyon Playfair, and Benjamin Disraeli, Esq., M.P. The speaking occupied from a quarter past eight to half-past ten o'clock; the floor was then cleared of the forms and tables, and from eleven till two in the morning dancing was enjoyed by the numerous company, with great zest and spirit.

The Soirée of 1844 (which was preceded in the morning of the same day by a conversational meeting of deputies from various literary Institutions of South Lancashire, on subjects connected with education), was held on the 3rd October, 1844, under the presidency of Benjamin Disraeli, Esq., M.P. There were at least

three thousand two hundred ladies and gentlemen present, and the meeting was addressed by the Chairman; Mr. Cobden; Lord John Manners; the Honourable George Sydney Smythe, M.P.; Rowland Hill, Esq.; James Atherton, Esq.; Alexander Kay, Esq., then Mayor of Manchester; James Heywood, Esq., M.P., &c. In addition to these gentlemen, there were present Lord Ranelagh; John Bright, Esq., M.P.; T. M. Gibson, Esq., M.P.; Joseph Brotherton, Esq., M. P.; William Cooke Taylor, Esq., L.L.D.; S. C. Hall, Esq.; William Torrens M'Cullagh, Esq.; Leonard Horner, Esq., F.R.S.; Charles Kemble, Esq. The speaking occupied from shortly after seven o'clock till eleven, when dancing succeeded.

The Soirée of 1845 was held on the 23rd October, in the Free Trade Hall, under the presidency of Thomas Noon Talfourd, Esq., Sergeant-at-Law. There were about three thousand eight hundred ladies and gentlemen present, and the meeting was addressed by the learned Chairman; Mark Philips, Esq., M.P.; Mr. Frank Stone; John Bright, Esq., M.P.; Douglas Jerrold, Esq.; Thomas Milner Gibson, Esq., M.P.; Samuel Lover, Esq.; Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P., and James Heywood, Esq., M.P. The speaking occupied from seven to ten o'clock, when dancing commenced, and continued to an early hour the following morning.

The Soirée of 1846 was preceded by a breakfast, on the morning of the 22nd October, at the Albion Hotel, at which Mark Philips, Esq., M.P., then president of the Institution, presided. About fifty gentlemen were present, and the company was addressed by the Hon. Chairman; by Charles Mackay, Esq., L.L.D.; William Chambers, Esq.; Mr. Charles Swain; His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin; George Dawson, Esq., M.A., of Birmingham, and W. B. Watkins, Esq., then Mayor of Manchester. The Soirée was held the same evening, in the Free Trade Hall, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Viscount Morpeth, M.P. There were five thousand ladies and gentlemen

present, and the meeting was addressed by the noble Chairman; His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin; George Dawson, Esq., M.A.; Lord Ebrington, M.P.; William Chambers, Esq., of Edinburgh; John Macgregor, Esq., of the Board of Trade; Mark Philips, Esq., M.P.; William Brown, Esq., M.P., and the Mayor of Manchester. The speaking occupied from half-past seven to within ten minutes of eleven o'clock, when dancing commenced.

The receipts at this Soirée amounted to the large sum of seven hundred and fifty pounds; but the entire sum was expended in erections, fittings, decorations, and *private* expenses.

The Soirée of 1847 was preceded by an entertainment given on the preceding day, by Sir Elkanah Armitage. It was held November 18th, in the Free Trade Hall, under the presidency of Archibald Alison, Esq., the historian of Europe. There were one thousand seven hundred ladies and gentlemen present, and the meeting was addressed by the Chairman; by Richard Cobden, M.P.; Ralph Waldo Emerson; Dr. Bowring, M.P.; George Cruikshank, Viscount Brackley, M.P. The speaking commenced about twenty minutes after seven, and terminated a few minutes before ten o'clock, when dancing commenced and continued till three o'clock in the morning. The receipts at this soirée amounted to twenty-six pounds; the expenses to the same amount.

The Soirée of the 16th November, 1848, was preceded by an entertainment given by John Potter, Esq., Mayor of Manchester. It was held in the Town Hall, owing to the small number of tickets disposed of. Lord Viscount Mahon, M.P., D.C.L., &c., presided, and the meeting was addressed by the noble Chairman; the Right Hon. T. Milner Gibson, M.P.; J. D. Morell; Robert Bell; George Godwin; John Bright, M.P.; Mark Philips; Joseph Brotherton, M.P., and John Potter, Esq., the Mayor. The proceedings terminated as usual by dancing. Financially considered this soirée was also a failure.

The Monster Soirées of the Manchester Athenæum have neither been productive in an immediate pecuniary point of view, nor in inducing any considerable number of persons to enrol themselves as members. They have hitherto been made rather a vehicle for external fame, than internal permanent benefit. The last three annual gatherings have scarcely re-paid the outlay incurred in giving eclat to the proceedings; and the statements made at the annual gatherings regarding the influence of this Institution upon the young men of the middle classes of Manchester have never warranted the enconiums that have been passed upon it. Elementary classes for acquiring a knowledge of languages have never permanently succeeded; but societies or sections of the Institution in which young men can display the little they have learned, have never failed.

From 1847 to 1849 the Manchester Athenæum appeared to be sinking deeper into debt; but a change of management and policy like that which distinguished an earlier period of its career prevented the closing of its doors. The year 1849—50 was the first for a lengthened period that closed with an expenditure below the income, and this desideratum effected by internal improvement alone, notwithstanding the income was five hundred pounds less than the preceding year.

Several new features and alterations in the working of this Institution were effected at the close of the year 1849. *First*, in the supply of commercial and political intelligence by electric telegraph. *Second*, by securing a constant supply of journals and newspapers from America and many of the British dependencies. *Third*, in the establishment of a distinct commercial and statistical library of general reference, and a room for correspondence. *Fourth*, in allowing the members to have access to the books and the general library of fifteen thousand volumes one evening weekly for examination or for taking notes; and *fifthly*, in enabling persons to become annual or quarterly members, at twelve distinct

periods of the year. To this may be added a re-adjustment of the terms of subscription. *First*, by reducing the annual subscriptions by one shilling to twenty-four shillings. *Second*, by equalizing the rates of quarterly subscriptions to six shillings and sixpence; and *thirdly*, by creating a new class of subscribers called junior members, being persons under twenty years of age, paying five shillings per quarter. A change has also been instituted which is worthy of imitation, in fixing the election of directors on the day following the one on which the annual meeting is called, in order to meet the convenience of the members by curtailing the proceedings of one evening, and inducing a more dignified and general interest in the election of the board.

The Manchester Athenæum is the type of those associations of the *middle* classes termed "Literary and Scientific" in London, and "Athenæums" in Provincial towns. To the Athenæum of Manchester may be traced almost all the novel features in Institutional history. The monster and the social soirée, the dramatic lectures (delivered by the ornaments of the English stage), and the cheap concert and classical music arose in this Institution, and were imitated by other societies throughout the country. This Institution has also abundantly proved that the chief features of such societies are not adapted for persons of any fixed age or especial gradation, in the menal progress of the individual. It supplies all the intellectual information and refining amusement in which men of all shades and ages desire to participate. Its tendency is perhaps rather towards the living wants and requirements of the day than towards that severer study which the past developes in the library.

The Manchester Mechanics' Institution commenced a long career of usefulness by systematic and complete courses of lectures on chemistry and mechanical philosophy. By the benefits apparent in a judicious class-instruction, in such branches of science as were known to be of practical application in the chief

mechanical employments in the town, the support and the funds necessary for carrying on a great undertaking, were supplied by the wealthy manufacturers. The rules affirmed that the chief objects of the Institution were to point out and teach the scientific principles upon which the business of the machine-maker, the dyer, the carpenter, the mason, and others depend; and it was with this object that eleven wealthy citizens subscribed the sum of six thousand six hundred pounds to erect an Institution which should prove a powerful instrument of public good. The Institution was commenced in April, 1824, by Sir Benjamin Heywood, Baronet; Joseph Brotherton, Esq., M.P.; Alderman Thomas Hopkins, and other influential persons: and on the 28th July, a general meeting of honorary members, each contributing one guinea and upwards per annum, was held, at which the rules of the society were submitted and approved. The Institution was formally opened on March 30th, 1825, with an address by Sir Benjamin Heywood, who pointed out the objects of the Institution, and the advantages to be derived from it by the working-classes in affording them the opportunity of acquiring useful knowledge at an expense not exceeding five shillings per quarter, and for enabling them to become acquainted with such branches of science as are found to be of practical application in the exercise of their several trades. This Institution was the first erected in England with accommodation for the various departments comprehended in societies of this nature. The land cost one thousand five hundred and twenty-three pounds, and the building five thousand four hundred and twelve pounds, with eighty-two pounds law expenses. This sum was raised by the creation of eleven shares of six hundred pounds each, bearing five per cent. per annum interest. At the end of nine years it was found that as only one thousand three hundred and seventy-five pounds had been paid on account of two thousand nine hundred and seventy pounds interest, the debt of the Institution had

increased to eight thousand one hundred and ninety-five pounds.

In the year 1839 the most active efforts were made to reduce the debt, and by the means of a Bazaar, a popular exhibition, and a successful canvass for subscriptions of life membership, six of the eleven shares were purchased by the Institution for the sum of three thousand and eighty-three pounds. A mortgage for three thousand pounds on the land and buildings of the Institution was effected in order to meet the generous offer of the remaining shareholders to relinquish their shares in favour of the Institution for the sum of five hundred pounds each share. From the proceeds of two exhibitions, held at Christmas, 1842 and 1844 respectively, from donations and life-memberships, and by the sale of the chief rent for five hundred pounds, the Institution was emancipated from a debt which circumscribed its resources and enabled it shortly afterwards to enrich its departments with a large addition of books, new class-rooms, an organ and two piano-fortes for the lecture and concert room.

From the year 1828 the Institution began to make a rapid and steady progress. The members evinced an increased interest in its success and management, and made several efforts to associate themselves with the directors in its organization. For three years (1828—30) detailed and systematic lectures were delivered by masters permanently appointed to conduct the lecture classes in complete courses on mechanics, natural philosophy, and chemistry. The chemical lectures were discontinued in 1832, but in the following year a chemistry class was commenced, in which the pupils made the experiments. The rules of the Institution at this early date presented several peculiarities,—all works on party politics and controversial theology, even donations, were by law excluded from the library of the association. Security was even required from the members by subscribing to a printed form guaranteeing the return in good condition of the books taken out, Members desirous of joining classes were required

to apply in writing; and the absence of any pupil for four lessons, disqualified him from future attendance.

For five years the directory was elected exclusively from amongst the honorary members, and the rules of the Institution were so framed as to prevent any but such subscribers being chosen to that body. In 1828 the finances of the Institution were in a somewhat embarrassed state, in consequence of the pressure of a large amount of interest upon the original money advanced for the building which, being a regular annual payment, greatly reduced the amount of income available for educational purposes. At this period the subscribers stepped forward and affirmed in public meeting the necessity for an active canvass for donations and subscriptions, and suggesting certain modes of proceedure likely to relieve and aid the Institution. Of these the principal were—the formation of additional classes, and the admission of the honorary members to the lectures and to the library, and the addition of nine directors, to be chosen annually by the subscribers from their own body, to whom they shall make an annual report of the state of the Institution. A copy of the resolutions were handed to the directors requesting them to call a general meeting of the honorary members to consider these suggestions. The directors declined to call the meeting; but the influence from without in the establishment of a new Mechanics' Institution which existed for a few years, brought them to recommend upon their retirement from office that "*liberty* should be given to their successors to appoint five from among the subscribers to *assist* them in the management during the ensuing year." This recommendation was agreed to and acted upon in the election of directors in 1829; but in the following year another change in the constitution of the board was recommended by the retiring directors to the effect that, the five chosen from the subscribers should not be *additional* directors, but form an integral part of the body of twenty-one managers. In the

year following (1832) the board of directors was reduced to eighteen; one half being chosen by the honorary members, and one half by the subscribers. In 1833 a new code of rules was adopted, in which the distinctions between honorary members and subscribers, with regard to the eligibility and election of candidates for the directory were abolished. The property of the Institution was also vested in the trustees.

In the year 1833—34, three new features of interest were introduced, each indicating the expansive nature of the Institution in the development of its resources. The first was an excursion by railway to Liverpool, the party visiting the Zoological Gardens, the Docks, and the chief objects of interest in the town; they afterwards dined with the members of the Liverpool Mechanics' Institution, in the lecture-room of that association. The second was the formation of mutual improvement societies, by essays and discussions, by chemical analysis, and papers on sections of natural history. The third was the establishment of social Christmas parties, commenced by the reading of an essay on "Christmas and its customs," followed by discussion and music, and concluding with good December cheer, of which the guests partook, including the wassail bowl. These festivals yearly increased in importance and in display, mumming and pageantry have been introduced, the processions of the seasons have been represented, and three thousand persons have annually assembled for three years to witness the exhibitions, which originated fifteen years before in a social Christmas supper. The visit of Lord Morpeth to the Institution led to an increase in the number of pupils attending the evening classes, and imparted a new vigour to the directory, which exhibited itself in the following year by still more extended operations. The establishment of day schools for boys and girls, and the election of the entire board of directors from the united body of subscribers and honorary members, combined to produce a directory distinguished for zeal, perseverence,

and judgment. The then Lord Chancellor of England (Lord Brougham) delivered an address to the members and promoted, by his advocacy, the success of the schools and the evening classes. Five hundred new subscribers were added to the members' roll within the year, raising the annual average to one thousand five hundred and twenty-six members and subscribers.

The proceedings of the Institution from its commencement until March, 1850, extending over a quarter of a century, is exhibited in the following table compiled from the minutes and reports of the association. The return given for 1827 is the annual average of the years 1825, 1826, and 1827.

Year.	No. of Members.	No. of Lectures.	Issues from the Library.	Pupils attending Classes.	Nett Cost of Lectures.	Cost of Bks. and Binding.	Nett cost of Newspapers.	Nett cost of Classes.	Rent, Taxes, and Interest.
1827	571	36	6639	200	£477	£334	——	£76	£540
1828	580	37	10,927	186	105	15	——	51	314
1829	530	—	9362	—	—	—	——	—	——
1830	568	—	10,000	—	—	—	——	—	——
1831	633	44	16,731	—	82	40	——	80	——
1832	576	40	15,000	—	97	105	——	90	61
1833	664	42	15,843	—	51	46	——	57	63
1834	1092	65	29,065	—	139	207	——	30	461
1835	1526	81	43,949	903	190	255	——	78	310
1836	1238	91	41,384	826	248	170	——	96	61
1837	1392	79	38,053	730	280	121	——	110	285
1838	1161	65	42,451	622	288	183	——	158	329
1839	1014	79	36,536	900	280	98	——	173	66
1840	866	66	33,427	401	221	105	gain	157	76
1841	1092	54	36,792	483	124	71	gain	130	150
1842	1083	52	44,683	439	299	159	2	110	299
1843	1030	60	39,246	352	71	96	5	—	166
1844	1236	41	51,744	533	218	191	28	—	209
1845	1507	38	58,785	651	234	256	49	—	41
1846	1893	38	79,327	818	107	268	63	120	50
1847	2096	45	92,453	1000	147	208	65	117	40
1848	1958	40	79,634	865	143	196	86	146	51
1849	1992	42	69,058	720	113	131	94	141	85

The life members are included in the above return, averaging sixty until 1839; one hundred and thirty from that period until 1849, when, by active exertions, the number of members of this class was increased to one hundred and sixty.

During the first ten years after the establishment of Mechanics' Institutions in Liverpool, London, Manchester, Leeds, and Newcastle, it was generally thought that no species of knowledge was necessary or fitting for the operative but such as respects the science or practice of his art, and tends to make him a better workman and more useful to his employer. It was argued that the introduction of newspapers was contrary to the object of such societies, as they exclude by fundamental law, party politics and controversial theology. A struggle for the admission of newspapers early manifested itself in the Manchester Mechanics' Institution; and the determined opposition which it met with from the directory and honorary members tended, in no slight degree, to diminish the popularity and success of the Institution with that labouring class of the community they were so anxious to secure.

Within five years from the establishment of this Institution it was observed that the few mechanics who adhered to the society were almost wholly composed of those workmen who had distinguished themselves for their skill and ingenuity, and that the new members were chiefly clerks and warehousemen, who sought, by the aid of the *Mechanics'* Institution, to cultivate a taste for liberal and useful knowledge. The sphere of the society's operations was therefore extended to a new class of persons. In 1835 Lord Brougham, in his address to the members, alluded to the small proportion of artizans and common mechanics which they included in their ranks, and deplored that the working mechanics of Manchester were not sufficiently penetrated and imbued in their minds, dispositions and tastes, with the love of scientific knowledge and useful learning, to avail themselves of the opportunities afforded of learning the principles even of those arts in which they were engaged. The reports of the Institution have supplied some interesting data, upon which the following classification of employments of the members has been compiled, distinguishing the different sections or classes of the community.

	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	Average of 7 years
CLASS I.								
Merchants, Manufacturers, &c.	305	260	257	263	198	160	150	—
Artists, Architects, Engravers	52	49	69	47	37	35	38	—
Professional Men and Schoolmasters	28	14	17	20	52	46	66	—
No profession	18	11	11	12	19	31	30	—
	403	334	354	342	306	272	284	328
CLASS II.								
Clerks, &c.	240	133	150	86	107	79	139	—
Warehousemen	164	165	204	173	144	128	190	—
Shopkeepers, and their Assistants	111	53	86	69	71	58	71	—
	515	351	440	328	322	265	400	374
CLASS III.								
Mechanics, Millwrights, &c.	117	101	136	104	90	84	91	—
Overlookers, Spinners, and Mill-hands	58	56	36	33	17	16	12	—
Building Trades	92	71	104	89	56	50	57	—
Sundry Trades, chiefly handicrafts	78	113	132	105	82	82	102	—
	345	341	408	331	245	232	262	309
CLASS IV.								
Ladies	21	14	17	8	20	21	36	20
CLASS V.								
Youths	242	198	173	152	121	76	110	153
General Total	1526	1238	1392	1161	1014	866	1092	1184
Ages, under 14 years of age.	131	95	84	51	45	29	51	69
,, above 14 and under 21.	626	481	558	446	345	284	365	444
,, above 21	769	662	750	664	624	553	676	671
	1526	1238	1392	1161	1014	866	1092	1184

A sum equal to ten thousand pounds has been expended by the managers of this Institution, in objects in which *entertainment* has formed the chief feature. From 1834, when the lectures delivered in the Institution began to assume a lighter and miscellaneous character, to 1850, the gross sum of five thousand pounds

has been expended on this department alone. In the six years ending with 1849, three thousand pounds were paid for musical performances, and upwards of one thousand pounds in christmas parties.

During a period of fifteen years, the nett cost of the lecture department amounted to three thousand pounds, and a comparison of the last fourteen years ending February, 1850, exhibits evidence of the downward tendency of the public taste, and the growing neglect of sound practical knowledge.

	1835-9.	1840-4.	1845-9.
Lectures, Science, Physical.....	235	127	88
„ Science, Mental	8	16	2
„ Literature and Education	53	80	84
„ Fine Arts and the Drama	99	55	55
	395	278	199

Early in the year 1837, a series of miscellaneous musical entertainments were given, and this Institution claims the credit of having been the first to originate cheap concerts of a high order, with admission at a rate which enabled *all* to enjoy them. For seven years the concerts were in every respect profitable, and when the reduced sums paid for lectures, in the last four years are considered, it is questionable whether these entertainments have really been pecuniarily unprofitable to the Institution. For two years these concerts were given weekly, and the returns for the last four years exhibit the following results. In 1846, thirty-eight musical entertainments were given, the cost was six hundred and fifty-one pounds, and the receipts six hundred and five pounds, leaving a deficit of forty-six pounds. In 1847, thirty-two concerts were held, the receipts were five hundred and sixty-one pounds, by which a loss of forty pounds was incurred. In the year 1848, twenty-five musical entertainments were given, the receipts amounted to four hundred and eighty-six pounds, and the expenditure to six hundred and seventy-seven pounds, by

which the funds were burdened with a loss of one hundred and ninety-one pounds. In 1849, the engagements of vocalists depended mainly on the terms that could be made with them, in the hope that by this means the Institution might be saved from loss; but the experiment was unsuccessful, for thirteen concerts cost two hundred and twenty pounds, and returned less than one hundred and forty pounds in the receipts. Lecture and concert speculators who risk their services in the hope of receiving remuneration, are not of the first class of performers, and therefore fail to secure large audiences. Their appearance at the Athenæum or the Mechanics' Institution has never repaid them or added to the dignity or usefulness of these societies.

In 1840, a news-room was opened, with the permission of admitting strangers to this department, on payment of two shillings quarterly. This regulation was soon found unproductive, but it was not abolished until 1850, when the room was secured for the sole benefit of those subscribing to the Institution.

The evening classes of this Institution have been for upwards of a quarter of a century a most powerful instrument of public good. They have fulfilled the object and the office of a Workman's College, in Manchester; distributing the fertilising streams of knowledge, if not in abundance, at least over a greater and more barren surface than the colleges of the wealthy. The following statement shows the numbers attending the evening elementary classes at different periods:—

	1836	1839	1845	1848	1849
Arithmetic, Writing, Grammar, &c.....	487	635	383	366	477
Algebra, Geometry, &c.....	32	47	20	28	25
Drawing, Figure, &c.....	87	76	65	38	32
„ Mechanical, &c.....	121	155	128	68	60
Vocal Music.....	22	55	—	98	20
French.....	26	47	38	73	72
German.....	12	—	17	32	20
Total.....	787	1015	651	703	706

Chemistry, logic, and natural history classes have all had a short existence. The chemistry class, when placed under the able superintendence of Mr. Daniel Stone, from 1846 to the close of 1848, was well attended. At the commencement of 1850, the additional societies and classes were—dancing, sixty-five pupils; chemistry, eight; phonography, thirteen; and discussion, twenty-five members: giving, with the above return, a total of seven hundred and twenty pupils in the evening classes.

In 1836, a valuable herbarium and collection of british insects was purchased as a neucleus of a museum. In the following year by donations and purchases the museum was extended, and a curator appointed, but after an expenditure of upwards of three hundred pounds, the museum was discovered to occupy space that might be more usefully employed, and it was broken up and the collection, including various stuffed specimens of british and foreign birds, disposed of. Quarterly tea parties have always been successful in securing an interest in the evening classes, and they have generally proved pecuniarily profitable.

In order to introduce a better system of education than usually prevails in the day schools of the children of the working classes, the directors in 1834, fitted up a large room in the Institution, and established a day school after the plan of the Edinburgh Sessional School. The terms were fixed at four shillings per quarter for the sons and brothers of members, and five shillings for other children. The success of the boys' school soon induced the directors to open one for girls, upon the same terms as the boys' school. The operations of these schools during the period they were held within the walls of the Institution was most satisfactory. In 1838, the directors removed these classes from a central situation to hired rooms in Ardwick, and from their neglect, rather than from any unusual growth in the other departments of the Institution, the schools languished and were hastily given up.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PUPILS, &c.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total	Cost.	Recpts.
1834	226	88	304	£148	£180
1835	230	110	340	259	347
1836	230	110	340	259	339
1836	100	60	170	250	239
1837	90	50	140	204	125
				£1120	£1230

In 1845, a liberal and comprehensive scheme of female education by means of day classes was instituted. The issue of this experiment has been highly satisfactory. For less than thirty shillings per quarter, a young lady may receive the elements of what is termed an English education, and be taught the accomplishments now considered necessary to her position, including the French language, drawing, vocal and instrumental music, dancing, modelling, with the useful arts of millinery and dress-making, the usual privileges of the Institution, and the right to introduce a lady to the various lectures and concerts of the Institution. The average attendance in five years has been one hundred and twenty. The attendance in March 1850, consisted of eighty-seven ladies under fourteen, and forty-three above that age.

Few educational Institutions have been productive of such great and permanent good among the working classes, or have promoted so large an extension of those useful arts, which augment the comfort of every individual in the community as the Manchester Mechanics' Institution.

THE LYCEUMS.

Ten years after the formation of Mechanics Institutes in the principal towns in England, it was proved, upon undoubted testimony, that these societies had failed to attract the class for whom they were intended, by their founders, to benefit. Several of the best friends of the Mechanics' Institution of Manchester,

became impressed with a conviction of the absolute necessity of extending the work of mental enlightenment into a lower grade of society than that from which the members of Mechanics' Institutions were generally drawn. These individuals came forward and instituted a new class of societies which they termed Lyceums. The leading features in their construction were the formation of small news-rooms, rational and innocent evening recreations, and the encouragement of female members and female instruction, upon a scale of charge so moderate that it would be within the reach of every class of workmen in employment. While the Mechanics' Institution has exacted a subscription of five shillings per quarter, the Lyceums have been content with two shillings for males and one shilling and sixpence for females, and in one instance have collected these sums in weekly and half-quarterly instalments, offering the like advantages of news-room, library, lectures, and classes.

The Lyceums of Manchester were established in the year 1838, and the eagerness with which the operatives availed themselves of the novelty which was presented to them of cheap newspapers, recreation and mental improvement, is evinced by the following statement of the number of members enrolled in the second quarter after their formation :—

Ancoats Lyceum	.....	735
Salford „	.....	1500
Chorlton „	.....	530

making a total of nearly three thousand members.

The Ancoats Lyceum is established in a quarter of the town entirely inhabited by the working-classes. The news-room has been its attraction from the thirst for political knowledge which exists amongst factory operatives, developing itself occasionally in chartist meetings, in appeals to the legislature for protection to labour, and gatherings to promote socialism and communism.

In 1840, the income derived from six hundred and forty-four

members, including seventy-five females was found sufficient to cover the expenditure, but since that period, the Institution has been kept open by the liberality of the wealthy. Coffee parties, conducted upon the small admission fee of sixpence each person, were found to afford much gratification, and were so well managed, as to return a small profit. The library of the Institution is a department of some importance, since its average daily delivery in 1840 was one hundred and three volumes; in 1842, sixty, and from 1847 to 1850, fifty volumes. The classes have not been behind the other arrangements of the society in utility, although they have shared in the general depression and apparent decay of the Institution. In 1842, the numbers attending the reading, writing, and arithmetic classes were one hundred and thirty-three males and fifty-five females. In 1842, the average numbers attending these classes were one hundred and sixty-five males and ninety females; in 1847, they were one hundred and eighty-seven males, and eighty females; and in 1850, one hundred and seventeen males and twenty-two females.*

For several years lectures were delivered, and it was found that whenever first-rate talent was engaged, that not one-third of the members attended; but when gratuitous lectures were given by local men, and delivered in a language that could be understood, the attendance was uniformly satisfactory.

THE SALFORD LITERARY AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTION was established in 1838 with the title of the *Salford Lyceum*. Its proposed object was to "facilitate and promote the moral and intellectual improvement of both sexes by means of a news-room, library, reading-room, lectures, classes, concerts, discussions,

* The managers of the existing Lyceums complain that the young men who should attend their classes, are to be found in casinos and public houses licensed for musical performances. Have the directors forgotten the great, the recreative object upon which this class of societies was ushered into existence? They have advanced to the solid, elementary instruction which distinguished the Mechanics' Institution; but as a consequence, the Lyceums have lost the class of persons they first attracted. J.W.H.

and literary recreative purposes." The allurements held out to the working-classes at many of the beer-houses by means of organs and other musical entertainments, were found to be great rival attractions. The directors of the Lyceum in 1838, 1839, and 1840, formed their members into vocal and instrumental music classes, elocution and discussion societies, and held frequent coffee parties that the members might derive as much entertainment as instruction. Classes for reading, writing, arithmetic, and drawing, were also gratuitously conducted by qualified teachers. The result of the first half year's operations was the enrolment of five hundred and fifty-three members, of whom two hundred and seventy-three were males attending the elementary classes, and forty females. Thirty-two lectures were also delivered. From 1841, and for several years, the average number of members was four hundred. In 1842, upon the Salford Royal Mechanics' Institution ceasing to exist, the library of that society was purchased by the subscriptions of the wealthy, and one efficient establishment, with a library of two thousand volumes, issuing on the average seventy daily, was formed under the title at present borne by the Institution. About this time it was proposed to receive the subscriptions in weekly instalments, but only seventy persons were found to avail themselves of the privilege in the year, and the uncertainty attending it induced the directors to impose an entrance fee of sixpence upon each subscriber. The Institution is involved in debt, and the number of members subscribing in March, 1850, is about two hundred.

The Miles Platting Institution was founded by Sir Benjamin Heywood, in 1834, in the form of a mutual improvement society. Two years later he erected the present Institution, with free accommodation for library, reading-room, and evening classes. In three years one hundred and eight lectures were delivered on various subjects, and several female classes for instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, and the cutting-out of clothes were

conducted with moderate success, concerts, tea parties, and discussions were also continued by a small body of the working members. The district is chiefly inhabited by working men, yet the founder furnished the reading room with red curtains, easy chairs, and pictures. Coffee, songs, and reading aloud were also ocassionally encouraged as forming an agreeable place of resort; but the public house continued to retain a paramount influence over the labouring classes. In 1841, the number of members paying a quarterly subscription of two shillings, was one hundred and sixty-one, including twenty-five warpers and warehousemen, twenty females, and thirty-five boys. Two thirds of the members attended evening classes. During the last ten years the Institution has had a chequered career, and its moral usefulness, notwithstanding the munificence of the founder, has been contracted year after year until its existence is scarcely perceptible in the township.

Several Institutions have from time to time been formed in Manchester under the titles "Working-men's Association," and "People's Institute," but their operations have not extended over a greater period than six months. They have long since passed away, chiefly owing to political influences. The Sunday school teachers in connection with the various congregations have formed school-libraries and lecture societies. The library and lecture society of Cavendish-street chapel is a flourishing association, the members paying one shilling per quarter; the scholars half-price.

The Young Men's Christian Association arose from the hostility of the established clergy to the existing Institutions of the town. Its effective operations from appealing to one class of the community have been limited to lectures and evening classes; but even these have been irregularly attended. There are several private discussion classes in Manchester, and the Roby and Bennett schools have adult evening classes for writing and arithmetic.

The members attending the latter in the winter session 1849-50, on two evenings weekly was two hundred and fifty, exclusive of a female class for sewing and housewifery.

The history of the Manchester Lyceums and suburban Mechanics' Institutions present undoubted evidence of the degradation of the taste of the labouring classes. Their moral influence has become in-operative against the numerous singing rooms which have sprung up in the cotton metropolis. The weekly visitants of the casinos and public-house-singing-rooms exceed fifty thousand, amongst whom may be recognised the desultory pupils of the evening classes of the Mechanics' Institution as well as the seceders from the Athenæum. Unprofitable miscellaneous lectures have encouraged inconstancy and unfixedness of character, which has estranged many promising youths from virtuous and nobler associations, and led to the sowing of pernicious principles which will asuredly bear them sorrowing fruit.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

This great commercial town is the centre of an important mining district, the inhabitants of which have furnished abundant evidence in their buildings and associations, of their appreciation of the value of mechanical, artistic, and chemical skill. In the establishment of Mechanics' Institutions, Northumberland early distinguished itself, for in 1825 there was scarcely a market town in the county without its educational society of working men.

THE LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, AND MECHANICAL INSTITUTION was established in 1824, and soon occupied a prominent and influential position in the town and in the populous district in which it is situated. For twenty years the directors rigidly adhered to the first objects of such associations, in the diffusion of practical knowledge among the most productive classes of the community. The great feature in this Institution which has alone secured its continued existence is the library, stated by Dr.

Dibdin to be the very best, for its extent and kind, in England; in five years the issues have risen from twelve thousand five hundred to thirty-eight thousand; but in the year ending March, 1850, the issues were only twenty-eight thousand. The number of volumes in 1850 is returned as eight thousand one hundred and fifty. Classes were established soon after the formation of the Association for the study of natural philosophy, and a fine collection of working models and apparatus obtained. Silver medals for ingenious machines and for improvements in others as well as for essays on literary subjects were awarded, but the inducements held out were frequently of little avail. Several members of the Institution have recently formed a society for the promotion of the arts and sciences, and to this society has been committed the charge of the apparatus belonging to the Institution, to be arranged and put in proper order. The society numbers thirty members. At several of the meetings papers have been read, and specimens of arts and manufactures exhibited. During the year 1849 the historical class has been attended with spirit: five essays were received from competitors for the prize for the best essay on "The advantages of the study of English history." This class appears to be an improvement upon the usual essay and discussion societies, and presents a sufficiently extended field of debate in the consideration of the most important civil and religious transactions recorded in the national annals and contemporaneous events of Europe, to be valuable and entertaining, as well as to impart a taste for historic information. Lectures and concerts were admitted, in 1835, to have been a failure, and it was deemed imprudent to enter into further engagements of this nature. Exhibitions, railway excursions, and soirées, have been remunerative as well as attractive, but it was not until 1847 that any great energy was displayed in the management. In that year newspapers were admitted into the reading room, and an amalgamation effected with the *Tyne Polytechnic Institution*, which introduced

new members and an extended system of instruction by classes which previous committees had failed to accomplish. The last seven years have been the most important in the annals of the Institution: the number of members, subscribing twelve shillings annually and eight shillings for the sons and apprentices of members, in half-yearly and quarterly instalments, is thus returned:—

1844	335
1845	358
1846	376
1847	400
1848	715
1849	922
1850	747

In 1849 an experiment was made by the committee of this Institution which, in the result, has reversed the general experience. By extending the operations of such societies from an occasional opening of the rooms to constant daily attendance a considerable increase in members is usually secured; but the directors of the Newcastle Mechanics' Institution opened their rooms every day for six months and then relinquished the plan, owing to the additional expense of carrying it on.

There are two flourishing working men's reading-rooms in Newcastle; one situate in Nelson-street, the other at Arthur's Hill

The Literary and Philosophical Society was instituted in 1793, and was long distinguished for the character of the lectures delivered in it by the most celebrated scientific men of the age, who were handsomely paid for their journies from the great metropolis by the liberal directors of this society.

Gateshead, which may be considered a suburb of Newcastle, possesses a flourishing *Mechanics' Institution and Literary Society*, erected by the aid of voluntary subscriptions.

The Gateshead Mechanics' Institution was established in 1836, and gradually increased until 1840, when the building

in which it was located was found too small for the purposes of the Institution. The members then resolved to endeavour to raise sufficient funds to erect a building of their own, and suited to the requirements of the day. Their attempts were crowned with complete success, and in May, 1848, they entered their new building entirely free from debt. The building was erected at a cost of one thousand three hundred and thirty-four pounds seventeen shillings and ninepence. This amount was received by the following means: donations, six hundred and sixty-two pounds one shilling and sixpence; share of Polytechnic Exhibition, held in 1840, two hundred and thirty pounds; proceeds of Bazaar, four hundred and fifty-three pounds and fivepence; interest on bank deposits, twenty-six pounds five shillings and fivepence, leaving a balance to the credit of the building fund of thirty pounds nineteen shillings and twopence, which was afterwards disbursed on the building. In this building there is a large hall for lectures, a library, news-room, and residence for the librarian; each well adapted to its required purpose. The number of members paying a subscription of ten shillings and eight shillings per annum has fluctuated between two and three hundred during the last ten years. The library contains three thousand volumes, and the issues exceed six thousand annually. There are at present (July, 1850) three hundred and forty-nine members, paying an annual subscription of ten, and eight shillings, according to age. The reading-room is supplied with eighteen monthly magazines and other periodicals. The news-room is furnished with three London daily, six local, and a large number of other weekly papers. The lecture room is occupied by local talent each winter half-year.

There are excellent Mechanics' Institutions in the neighbouring towns of North and South Shields, Wallsend, and Tynemouth. The populous villages supported by the prolific collieries in this locality, have their cheap news-rooms and Mechanics' Institutions.

NORWICH.

Many Institutions for the mental and moral improvement of the middle and lower classes have been formed in the county of Norfolk, but few have attained a position of permanence and prosperity. The Norwich Mechanics' Institution, established in 1825, was discontinued in 1844, and the only adult instruction society that has had a lengthened career, is the *Norfolk and Norwich Literary Institution*, established in 1822. This society possesses four handsome rooms, and consists of a public library and reading room. It has neither lectures, classes, nor newspapers. The library contains thirteen thousand volumes, well assorted and arranged for selection by the members, who supply themselves from the shelves. The Institution is held by four hundred and fifty shareholders of five guineas, subscribing one pound eleven shillings and sixpence per annum, and subscribers, non-shareholders, paying two pounds two shillings per annum. About two hundred pounds per annum are expended in the purchase of the periodical and general literature of the day, and a few standard works. Since the formation of the Institution seven thousand pounds have been expended in books, fifteen hundred pounds in periodicals, and five hundred pounds in binding.

The Norwich Athenæum originated with, and was supported by, the young men of the town. It was established in 1844, with the moderate subscription of twelve shillings per annum, payable quarterly. The news-room was the principal attraction, but the library, lectures, classes, and reading-room were at first efficient means of information and improvement to the members. Several handsome donations were received, and a library of two thousand volumes formed. Concerts were given by the members of the music class, and a gymnasium erected. The old vexatious and useless system of obtaining recommendations from two members previous to being enrolled a member and signing an undertaking, was also adhered to.

The Athenæum was kept in operation chiefly by the patronage and presidency of the late Bishop of Norwich, and by his exertions the number of members was raised, in 1848, to five hundred and fifty-three. During the last two years the Institution has rapidly declined; and in the present year (1850), it has been obliged to close its doors with a liability so heavy, that little hope can be formed of its re-establishment.

The fall of the Athenæum has probably been accelerated by the establishment of a *People's College*, which made an auspicious commencement, but has rapidly declined since the winter of 1848—9. Arrangements are making for re-modelling the society for the session of 1850—1.

There are several Farmer's Clubs in Norwich and the neighbouring villages, but they cannot penetrate to the lower grades of society, or afford instruction of any kind to the labouring men. At the meetings of these Clubs much valuable information relative to improved husbandry and agricultural chemistry is imparted to the members; but it does not secure that regard for scientific investigation by the members which is as essential to the prosperity of the agriculturalist as to the manufacturer.

The Public Library of Norwich, established in 1784, is a very fine lending library, containing twenty thousand volumes. The *Norwich City Library*, a library belonging to the corporation, is now deposited in a room at the Public Library, and contains a collection of about one thousand nine hundred volumes, principally published in the seventeenth and the early part of the eighteenth century. The subscription to the Public Library is one guinea per annum to shareholders, and twenty-six shillings to annual subscribers without shares. The original price of the shares was five guineas. The annual income varies from four hundred and fifty to five hundred pounds, which, after the payment of salaries and other necessary expenses, is expended in the purchase of books.

NOTTINGHAM.

A few months after the formation of the London Mechanics' Institution, a society for the discussion of literary and scientific subjects was formed in this town, and exercised a beneficial influence on the aspiring young journeymen during the years 1824, 1825, and 1826. The active thirst for information, so strikingly apparent in every department of human knowledge, early evinced itself in Nottingham. If it led to a vivid perception of political rights and wrongs, to political unions, and chartism, it threw off the veil that darkened the vision of the human intellect, and cited all the great features of our active worldly system for examination and sentence by the tribunal of reason and truth. When Mechanics' Institutions languished in the country, this society followed the almost universal rule; but on their revival, ten years later, a Mechanics' Institution was formed (in 1837), which has proved itself not alone an ornament to the town and the county, but in many respects worthy of the imitation of societies that foster the arts, and familiarize the public with objects of elegance, rarety, and beauty.

The number of members, since the formation of the institution, has been thus returned in the general reports.

1838	747
1839	929
1840	899
1841	480
1842	384
1843	395
1844	465
1845	816
1846	980
1847	727
1848	848
1849	736
1850	815

In the month of January, 1845, the members of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution assembled, for the first time, in their own building, which forms one of the ornaments of the town. This erection has the outward form of a massive stone building in the Grecian style: it is one hundred and twenty-four feet in length, and sixty-one in width. The accommodations consist of the residence of the librarian, two commmodious class-rooms, a library and reading-room; at the western end a lecture room, forty-five feet by twenty-six feet, and beyond that the natural history gallery, fifty feet by nineteen feet, with an apartment for the curator. The greater part of the floor above is occupied by the great hall, eighty feet by forty-five feet, and thirty feet high, with an orchestra and platform, affording accommodation for one thousand members. Under the orchestra is an upper gallery for natural history specimens, a committee room, apparatus room, and music library.

Two important benefits were obtained immediately upon the occupation of the new building which should be imitated by the patrons of Institutions in other parts of England: they consisted of presentations of choice works of art, paintings to adorn the walls, and a few handsome tables and chairs for the library and reading-room. The removal of the museum of the Natural History Society of Nottingham to the Institution soon led to its entire possession by the Mechanics' Institution from the non-payment of rent due from the society. Two valuable additions to the property of the Institution were also made in 1849, one in the purchase of land adjoining the Institution; the other in the possession of a powerful organ for the great hall. The original cost of the organ and outfit was upwards of seven hundred pounds, but the amount of purchase money (six hundred pounds) has been nearly raised by donations and popular concerts.

One of the chief defects of the Nottingham Institution is the irregular attendance at the elementary classes. The directors have offered the inducement of *free* admission to the members;

but without a canvass for pupils and encouraging visitations, this department rarely succeeds in any Mechanics' Institution. The elementary classes, writing, arithmetic, drawing, vocal music, and French, were only attended in 1849 by eighty persons out of four hundred members of that class who were in need of such instruction. A mutual improvement class has been formed early in the year 1850, numbering thirty members. For the last three years the lectures delivered upon a variety of subjects, both gratuitous and professional, have proved a decided failure. The issues from a well-selected library of five thousand volumes, of which one-third are works of fiction, amounted in 1849—50 to thirty-three thousand; but two-thirds of this delivery consisted of poetry and works of fiction. The subscription to the Institution with all its advantatages, is only one shilling and sixpence per quarter.

In 1848 a news-room in connection with, though distinct from the Institution, was established: one hundred members are enrolled as subscribers, paying one shilling and sixpence per quarter.

The entire cost of the Institution and the freehold land upon which it is erected has been nearly six thousand six hundred pounds. This sum has been raised by donations, one thousand pounds; by proceeds of exhibition, eight hundred pounds; by shares of one pound each, two thousand three hundred pounds; and the remaining two thousand five hundred pounds upon mortgage.

The desire for intellectual amusement seems to have entered into all the ramifications of society in this town, for there are several Working Men's Libraries *held in public houses*. At two of these houses political discussions are also held under judicious regulations.

The People's College, when first opened in 1847, had a few adults attending evening classes, but the business of the establishment since 1849 has been confined to the day schools of which the College alone consists.

At Radford, a populous manufacturing district, about a mile from Nottingham, there is a library for working men, as well as at Beeston, Arnold, and Eppenstone. The Farmers' Clubs in this neighbourhood do not supply instruction by means of either libraries or classes.

PAISLEY.

The active and prevailing thirst for enquiry and information so strikingly apparent in every department of human knowledge which may be reckoned among the commendable qualities of the age in which we live, has developed itself to a great extent in this town. Paisley can boast of having a greater number of literary and benevolent associations than any town of the same population in Britain, notwithstanding the extreme poverty which frequently prevails among the home weavers and toiling mill-hands, depending on that precarious employment—a fancy trade. It has been shown in page 28 of this work that the oldest existing society for moral improvement in Great Britain, was established in Paisley, in the year 1757.

The Paisley Athenæum by its union with the Paisley Library, possesses five thousand volumes; it has a small news-room, and occasional lectures. The number of members does not average more than one hundred and fifty persons, contributing eighteen shillings annually.

The Artizan's Institution was established in 1847, upon a more liberal and extended scale than similar societies in the town, as baths, refreshment rooms, frequent tea parties, draughts, and bagatelle were embraced in the scheme upon a subscription of eight shillings per annum. The reading-room has been well supplied with newspapers; the library contains three hundred volumes; and the best lectures delivered in Paisley have been attended by the members of this society. The classes have been regularly and numerously attended. In 1848 two hundred and

twenty-eight pupils were attending the writing, grammar, drawing, logic, music, latin, natural history, and phonography classes. At the close of the first and second years, four hundred members were entered on the roll. In 1849 they had increased to four hundred and seventy, including about fifty females and apprentices.

THE PAISLEY MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, established in 1847, is chiefly supported by its reading-room, at a subscription of eight shillings per annum. Three hundred and thirteen members were enrolled in 1848, and two hundred and sixty-four in 1849. Sixty-three members attended the drawing, music, and writing classes in 1849. The Institution has a smoking-room.

PLYMOUTH AND DEVONPORT.

Many of those Institutions that adopted a charge for admission to their varied advantages suited to the means of those upon whose co-operation they relied for aid, have passed through the same period of difficulty and ill success that has been presumed to have attached itself peculiarly to such societies as were supported by high subscription and large contributions, with this difference, that in the end the lower rate of subscription has been successful in gaining buildings and permanent support.

THE DEVONPORT MECHANICS' INSTITUTION was established in 1825, with a subscription of eight shillings per annum for persons under twenty, and ten shillings for persons above that age. For fifteen years the average number of members ranged between fifty and seventy ordinary members. In 1842 an effort was made to obtain a building and extend the usefulness of the Institution. The funds for the erection of the first and smaller building were raised in shares of two pounds, bearing interest at five per cent. In 1846 the number of members was five hundred and seventy-five; in 1847, 1848, and 1849, about eight hundred in each year; and in 1850 eight hundred and twenty-five subscribers,

including twenty-five honorary members. Since 1846 evening classes have been in operation, attended on the average by one hundred to one hundred and fifty pupils. About two hundred working men and one hundred and twenty females are members of the association. The principal feature in this Institution is the annual polytechnic exhibitions, &c., at which silver and bronze medals are awarded for mechanical inventions, drawings, and essays. The festival for 1850 is thus announced by the directors:—"Public exhibitions of the works of science and art are found to be valuable auxiliaries to the other means of instruction afforded by Mechanics' Institutes, and by a judicious arrangement in bestowal of premiums and honorary rewards for meritorious productions, they are made subservient to the advancement of arts and manufactures."

"The accessible position of Devonport, situate on the borders of Devon and Cornwall, and surrounded by a large maritime, commercial, agricultural, and mining population, renders it exceedingly eligible for exhibitions of this nature. With a view therefore of affording the inhabitants of the western counties an opportunity of extending their practical acquaintance with the works of nature and of art; and more particularly to encourage those branches of art and manufacture, upon the development and improvement of which our social welfare mainly depends, it has been determined to commemorate the opening of the new hall and subscription rooms of the Institute with a Grand Exposition of Works of Art, Manufactures, Natural Products, &c., to be held during the autumn of 1850, when a series of premiums, medals, and other honorary rewards will be offered for the best productions in each department." The new hall will accommodate twelve hundred persons.

The Plymouth Athenæum is of the class of Institutions better known by the title of Philosophical Society,—"it has ever been the smaller and higher court which rather supplied lecturers than coveted audiences." For forty years it has had its sessional

lecture papers written by its own members; but recently the attendances, never very numerous, have considerably declined, owing to the more popular lectures secured by the other Institutions of the town.

THE PLYMOUTH MECHANICS' INSTITUTION was established in 1825, and continued for twenty-two years to afford to its members the advantages of library, lectures, and evening classes, for a subscription of three shillings and threepence per quarter for adult persons, and two shillings and twopence for juniors. The distinguishing features in this Institution are the support which it has received from the ladies, who form nearly one half of the society, or four hundred of its subscribers; and its financial prosperity, notwithstanding its low rate of subscription, which has been further reduced, since 1847, to three shillings and two shillings per quarter. The library contains two thousand volumes, and the lectures are of the most popular character; one hundred pounds per annum being expended on this department. In 1826 the number of members was four hundred and seventy, and the average for the succeeding five years was nearly four hundred, when it declined for a long period. During the last few years the society has been steadily increasing from four hundred to upwards of eight hundred members. A new building is in course of erection, which has suspended the classes for two sessions.

A WORKING-MAN'S ASSOCIATION has been established in connection with the Institution at a subscription of one penny per week, with sixpence as an entrance fee. This Association numbered one hundred and fifty members in 1847 and 1848; but it declined in the following year. Classes on the mutual improvement principle for reading, writing, arithmetic, and composition, have been successful. A monthly manuscript magazine of original articles by members of the society is an interesting feature. Miniature exhibitions of natural history and manufactures have been occasionally held with success.

THE STONEHOUSE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION has existed for four years. It originated with three persons in the humble rank of life, and soon gained members and influence in the township. Evening classes for French, drawing, and mutual improvement have been successfully conducted every winter. By the liberality of the President, Earl Mount Edgcumbe, who is Lord of the Manor, a site *and the materials* for erecting a new building have been gratuitously presented. The edifice in course of completion is to cost four thousand five hundred pounds, and is to afford accommodation for the County Courts, and occasional meetings of magistrates.

An Adult School has been opened in Plymouth Dock Yard, for instruction in arithmetic, geography, history, and mathematics; but it has not secured that attention which was anticipated.

PORTSMOUTH.

The three towns of Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport, are now considered as forming one large city with a population of sixty thousand inhabitants. In the pleasing duty of diffusing useful knowledge and cultivating the intellect of the humbler classes, Portsmouth was early distinguished. In this town was first originated by John Pounds, a poor shoemender, a class of schools for destitute children, recently termed "Ragged Schools." In 1815 a society *having for its object the increase and diffusion of useful knowledge* was formed with the imposing title of Literary and Philosophical Society; and in 1825 the PORTSMOUTH MECHANICS' INSTITUTION was established, with the moderate subscription of eight shillings per annum. During the first five years of the existence of the Mechanics' Institution, instruction by means of evening classes was afforded to an average attendance of nearly one hundred working-men and apprentices. In the succeeding ten years but little good was effected by the society, and it was with some difficulty that its patrons were retained. As

its chief support was derived from the middle classes, it was resolved, in 1841, to extend its objects; and the association changed its title to the PORTSMOUTH, PORTSEA, AND GOSPORT ATHENÆUM AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTION. Under the new management the society attained a point of prosperity far higher than in any previous period of its history. Popular lectures drew the Institution into notice, and the number of members slowly but steadily increased at the rate of fifty per annum from two hundred to four hundred and fifty. Of the four hundred and fifty subscribing members to the Institution in 1850, one half are of the class denominated working-men, with forty females and juniors. The news and reading-room, and the small library of one thousand four hundred and fifty volumes have been well attended; but evening classes have never succeeded. In 1850 the class department numbers thirty pupils in four classes. A collection of scientific apparatus has been made, but it is not used.

THE LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION has had weekly lectures for upwards of thirty years in the winter sessions. It possesses a museum containing upwards of ten thousand specimens in natural history. The land and the building is the property of the Institution.

THE PORTSEA WATT INSTITUTE is an association supported by the working-men and mechanics of Portsmouth. It was formed in 1848 by the mechanics employed in the steam factory at Portsmouth Dock Yard; and they still comprise a large proportion of the members. The Institution commenced with two hundred and fifty members, in a small unoccupied chapel. By the assistance of some of the dock yard officials nearly one hundred pounds were subscribed for the purchase of books, and a well selected library and small news and reading-room soon administered to the attractions of the society. The class department was organised soon after the formation of the association, and it has subsequently proved its chief and most useful feature. By the

aid of the reading class several adults have been taught to read. By its mathematical and natural philosophy classes two hundred persons have received full and complete instruction in the scientific theory and practise of steam and motive power, fitting them for such higher duties in the service of their country as the 'development of science and progress of civilisation imperatively demands. A scheme for raising the funds requisite for the erection of a building suitable for the purposes of the Institution was issued in 1849, and the men in the steam factory took shares in two weeks to the extent of one thousand pounds. The sweeping discharge ordered by the admiralty in 1849, under the fear and influence of Mr. Cobden has presented a complete check to the building proposition. Lectures and evening concerts, singing and drawing classes have received, in 1850, the attention of the committee and the support of three hundred members.

PRESTON.

The public educational Institutions of this town are distinguished for their low rates of subscription, and for the public spirit with which they have been conducted. As early as the year 1817, a public adult school was established in the town, which was attended in the first year by fifty poor men and a few elder apprentices; but it was given up in the following year. In 1757 Dr. Shepherd bequeathed his valuable library to the mayor and aldermen of the borough for the use of the inhabitants, with a fund producing fifty pounds per annum for additions, and the interest of two hundred pounds as a salary for a librarian. As the books cannot be lent out of the library it is but little used. As a *public library* it is no exception to the many proofs of failure to allure or interest the public, which these Institutions of long standing everywhere present.

In 1818, and again in 1819, upon the dissolution of a Subscription Library the formation of an Athenæum was proposed.

THE PRESTON INSTITUTION FOR THE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE was established in 1828, affording the advantages of classes, library, reading-room, and lectures, for a subscription of six shillings and sixpence per annum. In the year following its formation seven hundred members were enrolled; but the society made but little progress from the inadequacy of the funds at its disposal. Two objects appear to have engaged the attention of the early councillors: * the collection of philosophical instruments and chemical apparatus, and the formation of a museum. Eight hundred specimens of natural history, were collected, and in 1834 some cases of rare insects were added. In 1836 a valuable oxy-hydrogen microscope was purchased. In 1840 the sum of two hundred and eighty pounds was realised from an exhibition of works of art, manufactures, &c., towards the erection of a building for the Institution. In that year the number of members was four hundred and fifty-six; but in the last six years the numbers have been as follows:—

Year.	Life.	Annual.	Quarterly.	Total.
1845	69	139	232	440
1846	68	181	299	548
1847	67	201	353	621
1848	64	186	307	557
1849	62	197	301	560
1850	62	191	300	553

In the year 1849 it was found that a library of four thousand four hundred volumes, a reading-room and news-room well supplied, evening classes and frequent courses of lectures were privileges for which six shillings and sixpence per annum was obviously insufficient, even with an average of five hundred members. By special meeting it was resolved to raise the subscription to eight

* The management of this Institution, professedly for the operative classes, is vested in a council.—Rule 4. The Preston Literary and Philosophical Institution, for the higher classes, is managed by a *committee*.

shillings per annum; and the experience of the last six months has shown the wisdom of this proceeding.

Evening classes have been frequently formed with various, but no very decided results; they have not secured that permanency which is desirable in Institutions of this nature. The museum and collection of philosophical apparatus has been comparatively useless, occupying space which might have been more advantageously used by clubs or classes. The present building was commenced in 1846; it is one of the chief ornaments of the town. The funds have been partly raised from exhibitions, bazaars, balls, soirées, and other amusements, conveying an admonition to the managers to mingle the embellishments with the stern realities of life in their sessional arrangements.

Singing-rooms are numerous, prosperous, and constantly well attended in Preston.

The Preston Philosophical Institution was formed in 1840, with four objects: a scientific library—a laboratory for philosophical apparatus—a museum of objects in natural history, and the delivery by its members of essays and lectures. Of one hundred and ninety lectures delivered in seven years, eighty were on subjects in physical science. By amalgamations this society has become influential and useful; it supplies lecturers for the smaller Institutes, and might be advantageously united with the Diffusion of Knowledge Society. It has absorbed the Preston Society of Arts and the Palatine Library, and it is now possessed of a library of three thousand five hundred volumes. The average number of members, including thirty ladies, exceeds two hundred, which might form a new or honorary class of privileged members to the Society for the Diffusion of Useful knowledge.

ROCHDALE.

This town is prolific in societies for imparting instruction and amusement. The Athenæum, the Literary and Philosophical

Society, the People's Institute, the Church of England Institution, and the Odd Fellows' Literary Society, offer inducements to every class of the townspeople. Three of these societies appeal to the lower classes for support, by the prejudices or distinctions of one form of religious practise, by one opinion in political economy, or through an exclusive bond of fraternity and charity.

THE ATHENÆUM exists by its news-room: in 1847 it had eighty-eight members, of which only twenty-six were members of the Athenæum only. The subsequent increase has not been great.

THE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE has been carried on under the superintendance and patronage of Mr. John Bright, M.P., and the members of his family. One hundred and fifty is the average number of members in 1848—9—50. The departments are a small news-room, a library of one thousand volumes, and two evening classes.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, AND ODD FELLOWS' LITERARY SOCIETIES were successful at their commencement; but have recently declined.

SHEFFIELD.

THE SHEFFIELD MECHANICS' AND APPRENTICES' LIBRARY was instituted in the month of December, 1823, and has continued to the present time as a library for working-men and boys, never having had lectures, classes, or news-room connected with it. A Mechanics' News-room was established on an independent basis; but it prospered only during a period of political excitement, and ultimately became defunct. Previous to the formation of this library the only means for the supply of books were what is called the Gentlemen's Library—a few libraries connected with the places of worship, in Sunday schools, and the Circulating Libraries kept by shopkeepers, whose stock consisted almost entirely of fiction. Access to the Gentlemen's Library by the working man was placed out of the question by the expense: a proprietor's

share being five guineas, besides a guinea per annum subscription. The works in the libraries of the Sunday schools were not of general interest, being principally religious publications; and the books of the Circulating Libraries were not of a kind to furnish that solid information and to form that correct taste for intellectual pursuits which it was considered so important to cultivate. The object in forming this library was to supply a want greatly and generally felt amongst the thoughtful of the working classes, and experienced by the heads of families and masters of apprentices, who, considering the responsibility of providing instruction for the youth under their care, wished to have a library to which they could send their young people with the entire confidence that there would be no danger either of their tastes becoming depraved, or their moral and religious principles corrupted. The design and object was to furnish at a cheap rate, access to the best works in art, science, and literature, including that branch of it which exerts so powerful an agency in forming the opinions and moulding the public mind of this great empire—the periodical literature. While furnishing the best works on science, history, and general information, it was also designed that their leading qualities should be such as to contribute to form a manly, healthy taste, and also to possess a moral and religious tendency; with this view the original rules rendered inadmissible novels, plays, and works subversive of the christian religion.

After an existence of a quarter of a century it will be interesting as a type of other Mechanics' Institutions to ascertain how far the primary objects of the Institution have been kept in view from its commencement, and in what degree they have been realized. The chief peculiarity in the Sheffield Mechanics' Library is the exclusion of *novels* and *plays*, but not all works of fiction, for it contains three hundred volumes of the products of the muse, with many works in the extensive department denominated miscellaneous.

For many years the members annually agitated for the abrogation of the law which prevented them from reading novels of acknowledged excellence, but successive committees held that there is a real distinction between the tales of Miss Martineau, illustrating some principle of political economy, and Sir Walter Scott's novels. How far this theory can be generally and yet successfully applied is a subject in which experience is not by all admitted as conclusive evidence. Have the Sheffield committee followed out in practise that which they have so strongly advocated? An inspection of their catalogue exhibits the following facts:—the tragedies of Lord Byron and the translations of the plays of Sophicles and Euripides find a place on the shelves from whence the works of Shakspeare, presented by virtue of a legacy, were cast out and sold by auction. The novels of Bulwer, Washington Irvine, Thackray, and Warren are admitted; but the writings of Scott, Galt, James, Marryat, and D'Israeli are contraband. Howitt's "Priestcraft," and Cobbet's "Legacy to Parsons" are admissible in the opinion of those who refuse to purchase a copy of the "Vicar of Wakefield;" no doubt upon the same principle which induces a committee of a Mechanics' Institution on the east coast of Yorkshire to refuse even donations of novels, yet re-purchases "Jack Sheppard" as often as it is worn out, because it is to be found in the pages of a monthly periodical. These statements convey no disparagement to the library itself, for on the authority of the poet James Montgomery, "there does not exist in this kingdom a public library of miscellaneous literature in which will be found a smaller proportion of exceptionable volumes, than in this of the Sheffield Mechanics'."

The average annual income of the society is about two hundred and fifty pounds, of which one-tenth (twenty-five pounds) is derived from honorary members. The purchase of books and cost of bookbinding amount annually to near one hundred pounds; the salary of the librarian to fifty pounds; rent, twenty-four

pounds; and the remaining receipts are consumed in incidental expenses. The number of subscribing members were—in 1825 three hundred and sixty; in 1839 seven hundred and forty-three; in 1845 six hundred and thirty-nine; in 1846 six hundred and fourteen; in 1847 six hundred and fifty-seven; and in 1848 six hundred and twenty, including the apprentices. The library is founded on the principles of a joint-stock company: the shares being five shillings each and transferable, with one shilling and sixpence per quarter subscription. The apprentices are admitted on payment of one shilling per quarter without being required to take a proprietary share. The present number of issues is six thousand eight hundred and fifty, with an average daily issue of one hundred or thirty thousand volumes annually: this is an increase of one-fourth in the number of volumes circulated during the last seven years. There is, perhaps, no Institution in Great Britain left to rest so completely upon its merits as the Sheffield Mechanics' Library. There is no canvassing of the town for its funds—there is no public advocacy of it before popular assemblies—there is, in truth, no exertion in its behalf beyond a few individual recommendations made by subscribers to their friends.

The Mechanics' Institution was established in 1832, chiefly with a view of supplying adult instruction to workmen and apprentices by means of evening classes. In the first ten years of its existence the number of persons receiving elementary instruction in classes averaged two hundred annually, from a roll of three hundred and fifty to four hundred members. From that period the number of members on the books and in the classes has been as follows:—

Year.	No. of Members.	No. of Lectures.	No. in Classes.
1842	533	13	320
1843	647	17	254
1844	602	11	199
1845	642	11	224
1846	486	8	91

Year.	No. of Members.	No. of Lectures.	No. in Class.
1847	390	13	—
1848	390	13	—
1849	590	—	250
1850	—	—	200

In 1847 it was proposed at a public meeting to re-model its machinery, and to combine with the Mechanics' Institution an Athenæum, to meet the more general requirements of the community. The Mechanics' Institution had then accumulated by exhibitions, balls, soirées, bazaar, and donations, the sum of two thousand two hundred and twenty-four pounds towards the erection of a new building which it was proposed should be applied to the erection of a building for the joint-Institutions. At this meeting, and subsequently, one thousand eight hundred pounds were contributed by the wealthy to carry out the proposed objects, and in April, 1849, the rooms devoted to the purpose of an Athenæum were opened. In the month of June, in the same year, the Mechanics' Institution merged into and became an integral part of the *Sheffield Athenæum and Mechanics' Institution.*

The land and building of the Institution was estimated to cost five thousand pounds, but it has been found to amount to seven thousand and seventy-one pounds; leaving a debt of three thousand pounds on the Institution. The news-room, coffee, dining, and smoke-room departments have already received encouraging support. The library, consisting of two thousand volumes, chiefly novels, still belongs to the Mechanics' section of the Institution. The amalgamation of the Athenæum and the Mechanics' Institution has hitherto been of no service to either section. During the progress of building the present Athenæum and Mechanics' Institution, another Athenæum was commenced in Norfolk-street, by the young men of the town, who objected to the union with the Mechanics' Institution, and resolved that any association with which they were connected, should be self-supporting. In the last object the founders of the Norfolk-street Athenæum have

been completely successful, having furnished their house and conducted it for three years without debt or gratuitous assistance beyond the subscriptions of its four hundred members. The departments are a good news-room and reading-room. A lending library, a refreshment room, cricket and chess clubs, language classes and lectures, have been given up. Several negociations have taken place on the subject of a combination of the two Athenæums, but hitherto a knowledge of the success of one society and the difficulties of the other added to some personal feeling, have presented an insurmountable difficulty.

THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE was established in 1842 by the Rev. R. S. Bayley, with a view to provide the labouring classes with an education much more advanced than that which they generally receive. The Institution was carried on under the auspices of Mr. Bayley for some years with success; but it afterwards declined. On Mr. Bayley leaving the town a few of the students resolved, if possible, to carry it on themselves; and after re-modelling its constitution by the election of a committee of management with the same power and control as the late Principal, they re-opened the College in October, 1848. In the following year five hundred and thirty young men and women were registered as students to the early morning and evening classes: of this number four hundred and twenty-six were males and one hundred and four females. The average daily attendance in 1849 and 1850 has been upwards of one hundred and twenty; the average age of the students is about *twenty-two years*.

This adult education society managed and instructed by its actual members, has *forty classes in weekly operation*, affording instruction in the following subjects, viz:—Nine for reading, three writing, three arithmetic, seven grammar, three composition, two elocution, three Latin, two French, one book-keeping, one geography, one short-hand, one singing, one logic, one drawing, one German, and one mathematical class. These classes have

been chiefly conducted by members of the Institution, selected by the committee from themselves and the body of students. They have had some gratuitous help from persons not connected otherwise with the Institution; and there is now a staff of thirty-two monitors. The committee use their discretion in appointing to the monitorial services those students who, by their attainment, punctuality, and good conduct, are best qualified for the responsible office of teaching. The reading, writing, arithmetic, and grammar classes have been numerously attended by those whose education has been neglected in their younger years; and the average ages of the persons in this department is twenty years. In addition to the regular weekly classes, a discussion or conversation class has been in operation. Lectures are delivered monthly throughout the year.

No library has yet been formed, but an alteration of premises to permit the opening of a news-room has long been contemplated. The society is entirely supported by the fees of the members' sixpences (weekly), with one shilling per quarter additional. This is a rate of subscription higher than that which is paid to the Literary Institutions, the Athenæums, and the Mechanics' Institutions of the country; and it has easily enabled the committee to provide the rooms with suitable furniture, to pay an annual rental of nearly fifty pounds, and to leave a good balance in the treasurer's hands at the close of the first year. Should the same prudence and prosperity attend the College, a good library might soon be purchased from the general funds.

METROPOLITAN INSTITUTIONS,

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES.

"Great Institutions do not so forcibly indicate the universal eagerness for knowledge as those upon a minor scale, and established in small districts."—*Brougham.*

In the progress of society, the Associations for learning and the Institutions for the encouragement of art, literature, and science, necessarily vary with the wants and circumstances of mankind. Thus the ancient schools of philosophy and art, and the Universities of the middle ages were well suited to the periods at which they were established, until a greater development of knowledge originated a new species of instruction. The extension of commercial towns and cities distant from the great seats of learning rendered it desirable to resort to additional modes of cultivating the human faculties, and of supplying the means, both of intellectual gratification and improvement. The principle of association afforded the best means of securing the productions of the best authors, whose works, until recently, were inaccessible from their great price, and it placed these stores of learning at the convenience and controul of those who desired to be instructed by them when the closing business of the day afforded the opportunity.

The great Lord Bacon anticipated the precise character of the Philosophical and Literary Institutions of the present day when he recommended the establishment of societies of the learned, who should publish an account of their discoveries and researches. Cowley promulgated a plan of a Philosophical College from the materials furnished by Lord Bacon, and the Royal Society was soon after instituted. From the period of the Reformation to the reign of Queen Anne, the Royal Society made but little progress. In the eighteenth century several

societies devoted to experimental science, were instituted. The The Society of Antiquaries dates from 1707. The Medical, the Royal, and the Harverian Societies of Edinburgh were instituted in the first half year of the eighteenth century; and in the second half of the same cycle, the London Society of Arts, the Physical Society of Edinburgh, the Medical Society of London, the Literary and Philosophical Societies of Manchester and Perth, the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin, and the Linnæan Society in London, were established. In the first ten years of the present century only three important societies were formed in England, and they were established in London, viz: the Horticultural, in 1802; the Geological, in 1804; and the Philomathic, in 1807.

THE PHILOMATHIC INSTITUTION was the earliest of the Literary and Scientific Associations established for the mental cultivation of the middle classes. The objects of this society were "the general cultivation and exercise of the intellectual powers, and the promotion of art, science, and literature, by means of lectures, library, reading room, essay and discussion classes, and the publication of a journal containing original essays, poems, and other compositions, by the members. For a considerable period the Duke of Sussex extended his patronage to the Institution, and took a warm interest in its operations. The Philomathic Institution was followed by the establishment of

THE RUSSELL INSTITUTION, in 1808, which consisted originally of five hundred shareholders, afterwards extended to seven hundred, paying twenty-five guineas each, and an annual subscription of one guinea. Subscribers were admitted to all the priviliges except management, on payment of two guineas annually. The library contains sixteen thousand volumes, and lectures are delivered weekly each winter session.

THE LONDON INSTITUTION, in Finsbury Circus, was established in 1809, upon shares, each member being a shareholder and paying an annual subscription of thirty shillings. The number of members

for several years averaged eight hundred; in 1838 it was nine hundred and sixty; but it has been carried on with diminished numbers for some years. The library is the best and most extensive of the kind in London, numbering fifty thousand volumes.

The Provincial Philosophical Societies of England have completed their career, they are the debris of an age passed away. Originally formed upon the contracted basis of improving rather than diffusing or popularizing the truths of science,—of cultivating instead of disseminating knowledge, they have continued aristocratic assemblies, philosophers by the length of their purses, and worldly condition enabling them to comply with the forms and terms of membership. Many of these societies are now held together by the little coffee parties which constitute the council meetings, while their outward signs of vitality are exhibited in an occasional course of lectures, which can scarcely vie with the programme of the humbler Institutes. No greater proof of their inutility can be adduced than the statement of their special advocate and historian Dr. Hulme, who says: "They naturally do as little for their payments as is compatible with the conditions of their charter or the forbearance of their members." Like the literary hoardings of the Roman patricians, their precious literary relics and rare treasures are seldom referred to by themselves, or used as a means of advancing the intellectual improvement of others. The exclusive feeling which animates the executive of these societies displays itself in an aversion to amalgamate with the more popular and really useful Institutions. Frequent instances can be adduced where the directors in their individual capacity assist, by their purse and advice, the Mechanics' Institutions; but they are highly sensitive and indignant at any proposition which would place their books and apparatus in the hands of intelligent working-men. These societies have also been jealously guarded from all connection with Athenæums and middle-class Institutions, and their councillors have in some

instances preferred extinction to amalgamation, that they might preserve with purity—their philosophy—their chemical base, which disdains alloy, and fears that any fusion with the *people* would reduce them to the impure commercial amalgam of general usefulness. The managers of the Philosophical Societies of Birmingham, Leeds, and Sheffield, have adhered to difficulties and inactivity, rather than sanction the development of one united and well-directed Institution. These societies in addition to those of Liverpool, Bristol, and Manchester, find it difficult to secure the number of persons requisite to constitute a meeting of members. Complimentary admissions are abundant from the same cause. The Institutions of Newcastle, Scarborough, Hull, Plymouth, &c., are useful societies, capable of being extended to the objects required by the professional and commercial classes of the community; and the Huddersfield and the Edinburgh Societies have become popular Institutions with their news-rooms and libraries of periodicals and light literature. The Huddersfield Philosophical Society made nine hundred issues of the works of Scott and Bulwer alone, in 1848.

Bristol	320	Members.	Plymouth	100	Members.
Hull	270	„	Scarbro'	100	„
Leeds	220	„	Sheffield	200	„
Liverpool	130	„	Whitby	72	„
Manchester....	190	„	Yorkshire	300	„
Portsmouth...	102	„			

The Institutions above enumerated, with the single exception of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, are founded with a preamble of objects precisely similar to those recognized by the Athenæums and Mechanics' Institutions of the country. Notwithstanding this their dwindling numbers exhibit the truthfulness of that experience which demonstrates, that Institutions, like all great works, flourish or decay in proportion to their value and utility to the age in which they exist.

THE CITY OF LONDON, AND THE WESTERN LITERARY AND

SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS were established in 1825, under the most favourable auspices. The Western Society originated with the Poet Thomas Campbell, who presided over all the early meetings of the Institution. This distinguished man was the originator but not the founder of Literary and Dining Institutions for the middle classes. He devoted some months to the consideration of the cheapest and best means of establishing a club for the mercantile and legal clerks of the metropolis, which should afford them the comfort, elegancies, and simple luxuries of the great clubs. A mansion with lofty and spacious rooms, in a central situation, with its restaurant perfect in table linen and garnicture, its servants respectful, quiet, and attentive, acting without fees, and presenting *at the same prices*, a perfect contrast to the general eating-houses in the city, with their narrow staircases, close atmosphere, barricaded tables and noisy waiters. Thomas Campbell visited the soup shops and partook of the food prepared at the lowest eating-houses in St. Giles's, and in Whitechapel. He ascertained the contract price per thousand of the best chops and steaks from Newgate Market, and he prepared some valuable statistics for the guidance of the persons whom he interested in his scheme. The establishment of a Club to be called the "Campbell Club" was resolved on, at a subscription of two guineas per annum; and upwards of two hundred persons enrolled their names as subscribers. A squabbling for management occasioned a general feeling of distrust, and the "Campbell Club" was soon forgotten. Ten years later the "Whittington Club" was established, upon the model of the Manchester Athenæum; but the knowledge of Campbell's proposition occasioned the greater development of the restaurant even if it did not influence the selection of the term "Club" in the first title of this metropolitan Athenæum. After the formation of the Western, the Eastern, and the City Literary Institutions, in 1825, a period of seven years elapsed before any addition was made to the number of these associations.

In 1832 the Marylebone, and in 1833 the Islington Institutions were formed. The desire for instruction of an entertaining and amusing form spread rapidly downwards in the scale of middle-class society, and led, in a few years, to the formation of Institutions at a much lower rate of subscription. The rapid growth of the metropolis extending its boundaries and populating its suburban districts, fixed the location of these societies in the out-boroughs of Southwark, Greenwich, Lambeth, Deptford, Bermondsey, Chelsea, Poplar, and Limehouse. In 1837 and 1838, eleven associations of this nature were brought into active operation. The demand for efficient lecturers exceeded the supply; and the fees paid to lecturers increased, until the total sum paid by the Institutions in and near the metropolis, was found to exceed fifteen hundred pounds per annum. Teachers of languages and of the arts of music and drawing, found ample and lucrative employment from the evening classes of these Institutions; and the London booksellers effected larger sales of magazines and solid and useful books.

In 1838 there were twenty literary and mutual improvement Institutions in the metropolis, containing six thousand and fifty members; and three years later, although some failures and some additions took place, the number of Institutions was twenty, with six thousand three hundred and fifty members.

The Greenwich Society for the Acquisition and Diffusion of Useful Knowledge is an association conducted upon the popular and liberal principle. For a subscription of one-fourth of the terms usually paid to the metropolitan Literary and Scientific Institutions, and one half of that required by the London Mechanics' Institution, advantages are conferred on the members which are not surpassed in any of these societies. The history of this society has thus been traced. During the winter of 1836—7 a builder at Greenwich, regretting that there was no room in the town to which the steady and intelligent workman might repair after the labours of the day were over for the purpose of improving his mind,

engaged and furnished an apartment for the use of such as were anxious to devote their leisure hours to the purpose of intellectual culture. About twenty-four persons—working men and small tradesmen—availed themselves of the accommodation, each subscribing two shillings and sixpence quarterly to purchase a few books and to meet the current expenses. They kept together during the winter, but as the summer advanced their numbers decreased. The few remaining, including Mr. David Bass, who has held the office of honorary secretary from that time to the present, to the entire satisfaction of all parties, drew up an appeal to their fellow-townsmen, which proved so successful that the little society increased daily in numbers, larger rooms had to be engaged, the use of a parochial school room was granted, and a weekly lecture was, for two years, delivered in this place. As the society increased steadily the directors resolved to have a building, in an eligible situation, which should contain the accommodation requisite for such an Institution. A large brick building, containing a lecture-hall capable of seating one thousand persons, a library, news-room, class and committee rooms, was erected. On the completion of the building the members rapidly increased, and within two years from its completion, or six years from the time when seven or eight humble men met in a small parlour to read in turn the essay each had prepared, the society consisted of twelve hundred paying members.* For three years the lettings of the lecture hall for musical parties, and for political and mesmeric meetings, was a fruitful source of income. By the excellence of the instruction and the rationality of the amusement, the directors secured for many years, a larger number of paying members than were enrolled in any metropolitan Institution. The management of this society presents two peculiarities: first, in the absence of patrons or presidents; and second,

* The society increased from four hundred and fifty to thirteen hundred members during the eighteen months Dr. J. W. Hudson was acting secretary of the society.

in the system of half-yearly elections for the committee and officers. Some of the active members of the committee have retained their positions on the board for many years, notwithstanding a vigorous opposition. In 1846 the first evidence of a steady decline manifested itself soon after the half-annual meeting; but the society has recovered its loss in members, notwithstanding a difference of opinion as to the wisdom of the policy pursued by the directors, and a growing distrust of the conduct of the trustees occasioning a powerful opposition, and frequent scenes upon the election of directors of a boisterous and ungentlemanly character, which, for the credit of these associations, appears of late years to be confined to the Greenwich Society. The debt on the building amounts to two thousand eight hundred pounds, but the value of the entire property of the Institution is estimated at five thousand pounds. Even with one thousand two hundred members, nearly all the evening classes have recently failed.

The City of London Mechanics' Institution, established in 1836, as the Tower Street Mutual Improvement Society, is one of the best adult educational Institutions in the metropolis. This society, for a subscription of two shillings and sixpence per quarter, affords its members the advantages to be derived from excellent classes, lectures, and a library. The proportion of members in the elementary classes is equal to one-half of the entire number enrolled as subscribers, while mechanics and other working-men form three-fourths of the names on the books of the society. Situated in a neighbourhood where singing pot-houses abound, the society has accomplished great good; and the directors have retained their members by wisely mingling harmless amusements with the graver studies of the elementary classes.

The Westminster Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution was established in 1837, with a subscription of twenty-four shillings per annum, or with what was unprecedented in London, except at the Mechanics' Institution, a low quarterly

subscription of six shillings. Circumstances and situation were adverse to the growth of the society, but the moderate rate of subscription attracted many of the members of the Western Literary Institution, and imparted a strength to the Institution which could not have been anticipated. The classes have for ten years formed the most important department of the society. The annual average of members has fluctuated between four hundred and five hundred, of which about one half attend the writing, arithmetic, grammar, logic, music, drawing, and language classes. The lectures delivered weekly have cost about one hundred pounds per annum nett, and the classes have been conducted at an annual expenditure of fifty pounds.

The Beaumont Institution in the eastern portion of London, differs from other literary societies of the metropolis, in its having been founded, built, and endowed, to the extent of four hundred pounds per annum, by a gentleman whose name it bears. The founder required the delivery of *moral* lectures every *Sunday* morning, but his son and executor has altered the time of delivery of these lectures to week-day evenings. About two hundred and fifty to three hundred members subscribe annually one guinea. There are a few members attending the French, drawing, and discussion classes, and the large funds at the disposal of the society are expended in giving expensive concerts.

The Whittington Club was established in February, 1847, under the most favourable auspices. As indicated in its early prospectuses, *physical comforts* were its first and chief object, intellectual education and rational recreation its second feature. "Breakfasts, dinners, and other meals and refreshments" headed its list of advantages,—the newspaper, the magazine, and the lecture were offered as secondary attractions. The Institution was ushered into existence by the aid of literary men, and it immediately assumed the most prominent position amongst the metropolitan societies. By glowing paragraphs in the daily and

weekly journals, by frequent advertisements, and by means of soirèes, balls, and concerts, in which the ladies shone preëminent, it attracted the (for London) unprecedented number of two thousand members. The subsidence of the novelty which first attracted the young men, added to the well founded report of financial difficulties, left the Institution, at the close of its second year much involved, and with less than one half its previous members The language, the music and dancing classes, and the dramatic, gymnastic and parliamentary discussion societies were conducted for some time with great success; and in the persons attending these departments in 1849 and 1850, has been found the most steadfast friends of the society. In the selection of lectures, the Club has been fortunate in securing the highest talent that could be procured.

At the commencement of the Institution the annual subscription was fixed at one guinea, with an entrance fee of the like amount; but when the society plunged into an excessive expenditure the entrance fee was wisely abolished, and the subscription fixed at two guineas. From 1st September 1850 the pernicious system of exacting entrance fees is again in force, in addition to the two guineas subscription. The experience of the Metropolitan Institutions and the whole of the Provincial Literary Societies has afforded conclusive evidence of the folly of raising a barrier to the admission of members and the fruitlessness of such attempts to retain them. The thousands who pass through the books of every large Institution in a few years, attest the ever varying taste and circumstances of our middle-class young men.

The Literary Institutions of London when examined as a whole, and proportionably compared with the Provincial Societies, present a low average of instruction by means of evening classes, and a still more unfavourable estimate in the extent of issues of books from the libraries; but the marked attention and enthusiasm which they award to lectures, and in the silence and order of the news-room, they are specially distinguished.

UNIONS OF LITERARY AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS.

"The Union system is only a larger exemplification of the Mechanics' Institute,—it is a series of wheels brought to act each on the other, and thus producing by the sum of their combined operations a far greater amount of power than could be hoped from one of these systems left separate and to itself."—*The Rt. Hon. Thos. Wyse.*

The history of Unions of Mechanics' Institutions may be traced to an article which appeared in the *Leeds Mercury* in the month of September, 1837, in which the Editor pointed out certain defects in the management of Mechanics' Institutions, as well as their general want of adaptation in their whole scheme and structure to secure the ends sought by their formation, viz.: the thorough instruction of mechanics and artizans in such branches of knowledge as bear on their particular occupations. The writer of this article, Mr. Edward Baines, to whom the honour of founding these County Unions of Institutions is justly due, proposed that the Mechanics' Institutions within a certain district should form themselves into a Union for the purpose of engaging one or more permanent lecturers to itinerate amongst them, and to give a regular course of instruction in those sciences which have the most direct bearing on the manufacturing operations common to the district. The subjects of instruction contemplated by him were,—mechanics, chemistry, political economy, and statistics: the latter two so far as they embrace the history and principles of trade and commerce, and conduce to the well-being of the industrious classes. One lecturer to give instruction on two or more subjects; but a sufficient number of lecturers was to be engaged to supply the associated Institutes with an unbroken series of tuition on each subject, conducting the student form its simple elements to its higher branches; in this manner constituting each Institute a complete school for every branch of art or science necessary to

the joiner, the mason, the builder, the engineer, the machine maker, the dyer, and the manufacturer. This scheme excited considerable attention in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and several communications were addressed to the secretary of the Leeds Institution, urging a meeting of delegates to confer on the propriety of adopting it. These suggestions were adopted at a meeting of delegates from the Institutes of the West Riding, assembled in Leeds on the 11th of December. In the circular convening this meeting the Leeds committee, after detailing Mr. E. Baines's plan, expressed their opinion of the impracticability of carrying it out to its whole extent; but suggested, as a modification of it, that instead of engaging permanent teachers of mechanical and chemical science, &c., the Union should employ the most eminent lecturers from time to time, in giving concurrent courses of lectures to the whole or a part of the associated Institutes, and that an annual meeting of the Union should be held to confer on new plans or suggestions relating to the general management of Mechanics' Institutes. As a basis for discussion at the meeting, the circular contained a sketch of rules for the government of the Union, and concluded in these words :—"This plan appears to embrace two important objects, first :—The interchange of opinion and advice on the local management of Mechanics' Institutes, and the consequent rapid diffusion of improved methods. Secondly :—The procuring of first-rate lectures on scientific subjects, systematically arranged and subordinate to each other, so as to present a connected and comprehensive view of each, at a much lower pecuniary cost than can be done by isolated engagements." * The meeting so convened was attended by delegates from the Institutions at Bradford, Barnsley,

* On recurring to the objects which the founder of the Yorkshire Union had in view in the formation of this the first association of the kind, it will be seen that he contemplated supplying by means of lectures, an unbroken series of tuition on each subject: a desideratum which has yet to be achieved.

Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, Leeds, Otley, Ripon, Sheffield, Todmorden, Yeadon, and York. The result was a resolution to establish "a Union of the Mechanics' and other Literary and Scientific Institutions of the West Riding of Yorkshire, for the purpose of employing a portion of their respective resources in the engagement of Lecturers of high talent and attainment," and the adoption of various governing rules. These rules differed from those at present in operation chiefly in the mode of levying the annual contribution to the Union, as they first resolved that the associated Institutes should pay in the ratio of their income derived from subscriptions of every kind. The committee appointed under the rules immediately entered into correspondence with the Institutes of Manchester, Liverpool, and Edinburgh, and the Metropolitan Society of Lecturers, in order to secure efficient and suitable men; but it was soon found, from the numerous engagements of eminent lecturers, that any lengthened absence from London for that season, was impracticable. Only one engagement, consisting of twenty-four lectures on Chemistry as applied to the Arts, and extending over a period of six weeks, was effected.

In the year 1839, some activity was shown by the Union in the engagement of lectures; twenty-eight were delivered on Mechanical Science, as applied to the Useful Arts; nine on British History; and four on America. Exhibitions of works of art and manufactures were also held at the recommendation of the Union Committee, in Sowerby Bridge and in Ripon, and realized large profits. In the succeeding four years the Union Committee made no attempt to develope or to extend the usefulness of the association; they recommended the publication of a monthly periodical, and the permanent engagement of a lecturer on the physical sciences, to be provided with suitable apparatus; but they made no effort to carry out their scheme.

Every Association, whether it be a County Union or an individual

Mechanics' Institute, to succeed, must be aggressive in its operations. The Yorkshire Union had been eight years in existence before the central committee *pressed* their advice and assistance, between one annual gathering and another, upon the individual societies; indeed they declared to the assembled delegates, in 1846, that they had neither the right nor the disposition to boast of their own labours as efficient, until a recent date. The recent efficiency alluded to was the appointment of an experienced secretary. At that period the Association consisted nominally of twenty-five Institutions, of which two had ceased to exist, and three had been suspended. The remaining twenty Institutions possessed five thousand five hundred and ninety-four members.

In the course of the first six months of the year 1846, applications for admission to the Union were received from twenty-three societies. Twenty-five manuscript lectures were collected, and several of them were delivered at the associated village Institutes. A list of eminent lecturers, who were prepared to deliver lectures, upon reduced terms, for contemporaneous engagements, was submitted to the committees of the individual societies, and the negociations, in two instances, successfully concluded.

In the following year (1846—7) a further addition of seventeen Institutes was made to the Union. Engagements for fifteen nights were made, upon terms highly favourable to the Institutes of Bradford, Halifax, Leeds, Scarbro', Sheffield, Wakefield, and York. The services of Professor Nichol, L.L.D., and Mrs. Clara Lucas Balfour were obtained by combined engagements, for the Institutes of Bradford, Ripon, Scarbro', and Sheffield; and Mr. Elihu Burritt was secured for the York and Darlington Institutions, while the application to him from one society was refused, because it was not an associated Institute.

A catalogue of books suitable for the smaller Mechanics' Institutions, noting such works as were to be had at cheaper rates from second-hand booksellers, had also been prepared and distributed.

By this guide it was hoped the village Institutes would be enabled the better to husband their pecuniary resources. An arrangement had also been entered into, by which members of one Institution were admitted *free* to the reading-room and lectures of all the others, upon presenting their subscription tickets. In large towns it had been found necessary to limit the number of admissions from Institutions within five miles. The rules of the Bradford, Beverley, Barnsley, Guisely, Hunslet, Stanningley, and Thirsk Institutions, were examined, and all the alterations suggested, with one exception, were adopted. These revisions were soon found to work beneficially. The Association had also rendered especial service to the village Institutes, by the distribution of manuscript lectures: indeed such was the eagerness with which the smaller societies availed themselves of them, that they frequently exhausted the entire stock, even after duplicate copies had been procured. Many of the Institutes had five and six of these lecture-papers read by their own members, in the names of the authors, during the winter session. The central committee found that by combining these intellectual stores they could be made available for the benefit of large numbers, pervading with a moral and intellectual influence the whole confederation. By the advice of the secretary, the committee consented to an extension of their numbers, involving the breaking-up of the monopoly of management previously held by the directors of the Leeds Mechanics' Institution.

The proceedings of the Yorkshire Union in the following year, 1847-8, gave evidence of the prosperity of nearly all the associated societies, notwithstanding the political and commercial gloom overhanging the great mass of society in that year. A further addition of eighteen Institutions was made to the Union, raising the number of associated Institutions to eighty-one, comprising fifteen thousand members. Lecture engagements were entered into to the extent of seventy nights, with nineteen Institutions,

effecting a gross saving of one hundred pounds, by contemporaneous engagements. In this year the rules of several Institutions were examined, and advice given upon questions of experience in the working of Institutions. In every instance the recommendations were promptly adopted.

In the year 1848-9, the Union was increased to eighty-six associated Institutes; and in 1849-50, the large addition of twenty-seven Institutions was made, of which twelve were new ones, called into existence by the activity of Sub-Unions. In 1849 a subscription fund was opened for meeting the expenses of a paid agent and lecturer, in accordance with Mr. Baines's scheme, at the formation of the Union, and two hundred pounds were raised by the liberality of the gentry in Yorkshire. Of the intelligence and efficiency of the gentleman appointed as lecturer and agent, the committee have expressed their satisfaction; it remains to show what has been effected in twelve months with a duly qualified officer, and whether the defect, if any, is to be found in the system. In two months twenty lectures were delivered, at an expense of thirty-five pounds to the Union, and ten shillings and sixpence each lecture, *with railway fare and other necessary expenses*, to such societies as possessed one hundred and fifty members. This represents a cost nearly, if not quite equal to the present reduced rate of fees paid to the general lecturers of the country. In sixty-two of the Yorkshire Institutions, six hundred and forty seven lectures were delivered in the year 1848-9, and only five hundred and fifty eight in 1849-50; but the latter included sixty-six paid lectures in combined courses, delivered through the influence of the Union in thirty-one Institutions, effecting a considerable saving upon the rate which must have been paid for the same lectures in isolated engagements. Several Sub-Unions have been established with considerable success, especially in the formation of Village Institutions. By the agency of the North West Sub-Union eight societies were brought into existence.

The East Riding Sub-Union promoted the formation of two Institutions and five branches in villages; a North East Union has also been recently established. The Yorkshire Union has grown to the most extensive educational confederation in the kingdom, as it represents in September, 1850, one hundred and nine associated Institutes with eighteen thousand five hundred members, who possess eighty-three thousand volumes which, in their issue, to the extent of three hundred thousand annually, affords satisfactory proof that these Institutions give voice to books and multiply readers by thousands.

London Union of Institutions.—In the winter session of the year 1839 a Metropolitan Association of Institutions was formed under the presidency of Dr. Birkbeck. The object of the Association was to promote the foundation, and to facilitate the labours of Institutions of every description, for adult instruction; to collect and diffuse information concerning such Institutions, and to point out the causes which principally interfere with their success. It was intended to consist of the members of all Institutions, for general adult instruction, within a circle of fifteen miles from Charing Cross, provided that such Institutions have a library, reading room, or lectures, and are supported wholly, or in part, by the voluntary subscriptions of the members. Immediately upon the formation of this Association, the secretary of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge was deputed to visit the provincial Institutions, for the purpose of forming them into Unions, and of establishing intercourse between them and the London Association. The result of his journey was the formation of associations of Institutes in Birmingham, for the Midland Counties; in Manchester, for Lancashire; in Bristol, for the West of England; and in Lewes, for Sussex. It is somewhat singular that not one of these associations had a lengthened existence; and unlike the society which Mr. Coates represented, they passed away, together with the London Association, without

leaving one trace of permanent usefulness. In 1847, a similar Union was formed at Canterbury, entitled the Kent Association; but it soon ceased to exist.

LANCASHIRE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS.—In the month of October, 1839, two years after the formation of the Yorkshire Union, a meeting of delegates from the principal Mechanics' and Literary Institutions in Lancashire and the adjoining counties was convened, for the purpose of considering whether a Union, having Manchester for its centre, could be advantageously formed. This meeting was held under the presidency of Richard Cobden, Esq., and Mr. Thomas Coates, secretary of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, attended and explained the advantages to be derived from an efficent system of mutual co-operation. Rules were submitted, and a committee appointed to superintend the printing and distributing of them, with power to call a general meeting of representatives from all the Literary and Scientific Institutions in the vicinity, in the following month of November. At this general meeting, the Association was formally constituted. The executive committee were instructed to enter into correspondence with the principal lecturers upon scientific, literary, and other popular subjects, with the view of ascertaining upon what terms they would agree to lecture to the associated Institutions a given number of evenings per week for a fixed term of three to six months. Arrangements were soon afterwards made with Mr. Wm. Ball, for a series of lectures upon the Comic Literature and Ballads of Great Britain, for six weeks; to lecture six evenings each week. Nine of the Institutions accepted courses of different length, as suited to the convenience of each. The expense per lecture was about one half what the same lectures would have cost if delivered upon the ordinary terms of separate and independent engagements. This was followed by the engagement of the Rev. Mr. D'Orsay, of the High School, Glasgow, at the cost of his personal and travelling

expenses; but owing to a sufficient number not concurring, and other unavoidable causes, the delivery of these lectures was postponed until the following summer. Attempts were also made to effect engagements with several well-known lecturers, but with the exception of a single course of six lectures to the Darwen Institution, the offers were not embraced. From these and other circumstances the committee became dispirited; and the Manchester District of Literary and Scientific Institutions speedily declined; it might, indeed, be considered as non-existent from the year 1841.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE UNIONS OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS.—In the month of March, 1847, Dr. Hodgson, then Principal of the Liverpool Institution, summoned meetings of delegates at Liverpool, and subsequently at Manchester, to form a new Union of Institutions. At these meetings Dr. J. W. Hudson attended, by invitation, to state the result of his experience in managing the Yorkshire Union, and to advise in the regulations to be adopted for the government of a corresponding society in Lancashire. From a variety of causes, nearly two years was allowed to elapse before any further progress was made. In December, 1848, Mr. Thomas Hogg was appointed as paid secretary, with an engagement to deliver ninety lectures, and to conduct the business of the Union. The zeal and activity displayed by the secretary did not receive that cordial co-operation from the leading Institutions which it was their duty to award. The Manchester and the Liverpool Institutions have afforded no encouragement or assistance to the Union; and it as been continued by the exertions of the President and Secretary alone.

In Lancashire there are (in 1850) forty-four Institutions, with twelve thousand four hundred and five members, including eight hundred and sixty-three females; possessing in their libraries eighty-seven thousand five hundred and thirty-three volumes.

In Cheshire there are eight Institutions, with one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one members; possessing eleven

thousand six hundred and fifty volumes. These Institutions are almost exclusively located in the manufacturing districts, very few having been formed in the mining or the agricultural villages.

THE SCOTTISH UNION OF LITERARY AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS was originated and established by Dr. J. W. Hudson, in January, 1848. This Union soon obtained the support of all the Institutions in Scotland and enrolled in the association in its first year, all the societies whose funds would admit of the annual subscription, with the exception of the Glasgow Mechanics' and the Edinburgh School of Arts. Thirty-five societies participated in its usefulness. In one year, one hundred and fifty lectures were delivered by its agency, including upwards of one hundred by Metropolitan lecturers, who were induced to visit Scotland for the first time, from the advantages offered by contemporaneous engagements. The actual saving effected was considerable, and several village Institutes in their annual reports attributed their success to the means which the Union brought within their reach for acquiring the services of talented lecturers; forty-five M.SS. lectures were collected, and frequent advice afforded on the management of Institutions. Three new Institutions were called into existence by its efforts, and the system of gratuitous admission to the library, news-room, and lectures to the members of any of the associated Institutions in visiting another town was introduced and practised, for the first time, in Scotland. The retirement of the secretary from office, led to the suspension of one of the most successful and useful associations in that country.

THE MIDLAND ASSOCIATION OF MECHANICS' AND OTHER LITERARY INSTITUTIONS was established by the Rev. A. T. Blythe, upon a suggestion made by Mr. Baines, at a meeting of the Yorkshire Union, held in Sheffield, in 1847, when it was deemed inexpedient to extend the operations of that association into the Midland Counties. The Midland Union, with twenty-two Institutions has effected but little good, from the want of an efficient

secretary, and there is reason to fear it is passing away, like the Midland Association of fifteen Institutions, formed by Mr. Dircks, in 1839.

THE NORTHERN UNION OF LITERARY AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS for the counties of Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmoreland, with its central committee in Newcastle, owes its formation to the zeal of a few friends in Hexham, who set an example worthy of the four counties, and to Dr. J. W. Hudson, who supplied the preliminary information as to the mode of working the association, and presided over its first meeting, held in Hexham, in 1848. At its formation ten Institutions joined the Union: in the course of the first year seven others were enrolled, and in September, 1850, it numbered twenty-two Institutes. In the first year eighty-eight, and in the second thirty-six manuscript lectures were distributed to the societies in the Union. In the engagement of professional lecturers but little has been effected by the association.

Upon taking a retrospective view of the operations of the Yorkshire and other Unions, it will be seen that the great amount of usefulness effected by the County Unions has not been of the character contemplated at their establishment, and has only been brought forward when the views of the founders have been modified from failure in the chief objects sought to be carried out.

The benefit to individual societies which a well-regulated Union can confer, independently of the engagement of lecturers and publications of transactions, is as follows:

First,—The distribution of manuscript lectures.

Second,—The diffusion of information on the subject of Mechanics' Institutions — their management, experiments and results, by which the matured experience of long established societies may guide the nonage of the newly formed ones by enkindling and encouraging their zeal, leading them and others to institute new departments of usefulness and moral recreation.

Third,—The examination of the rules of Mechanics' Institutions which have frequently been found so faulty that the obstructive members might at any time have ruined the society.*

Fourth,—Reciprocity of advantages—admitting the members of one society to all others, affording to each member, whether travelling in the pursuit of pleasure or business, an introduction in his subscription ticket to friends in every town ready to give information upon all local subjects, and eager to explain their own system of management, thereby inducing the visitors to return home impressed with the noble emulation of rendering their own society more useful, and more extensive in numbers and influence.

Fifth,—In the missionary character of encouraging the formation of Institutions in manufacturing, mining, and agricultural villages that will provide intellectual amusement for the inhabitants. Would Yorkshire have possessed its hundred societies of working men associated for mental improvement, had the District Union not existed?

Sixth,—By directing local committees where to apply for speakers at Soirées, for amateur lecturers, for a grant of drawing books, for donations to their libraries, for parliamentary blue books, reports of commissioners—sanitary, educational, poor-law, &c.; and with information as to the most efficient means of getting up exhibitions, conversazioni, bazaars, excursions, summer fêtes, christmas parties, &c.

Seventh,—The awarding of certificates of good conduct to pupils in the classes, by the directors of one Institution, to be

* On examining the rules of one Institute (Selby) it was found that the boys attending the classes were empowered to elect not only their own teachers, but the committee; and they exercised this right. In a Society at Bramley the members had the right of being present at all committee meetings, and exercised this privilege by uproar so effectually, to the injury of the Institution, that several of the most respectable directors resigned. At Stanningley the trustees and committee were at issue regarding their several powers. A letter from the Union Secretary, pointing out the extent as well as the limitation of the powers of each, soon restored permanency, and led to a new code of laws.

made the medium of recommendation, on visiting other towns in search of employment. *This has not been attempted.*

Eighth.—In establishing a system of exchanges in books by the duplicate copies to be found in many libraries; in supplying the secretaries of smaller Institutes with lists of select and popular works, with the prices of the cheapest editions; and with the catalogues of second-hand booksellers.

One cause of the failure of so many Unions arises, no doubt, from their having been too highly regarded by the managers of individual societies, who were led to anticipate great benefits from the Unions, forgetting that the power of the association is contained in the extraction of means of usefulness from the Institutes themselves; and whenever the Unions have induced the individual societies to tax their funds, as far as expensive lectures, the depressing effect lingers for a long period, and re-acts upon the association itself. The Yorkshire Union in its infancy was nearly destroyed by a similar course of proceeding. In Ireland, wherever government aid has supplied the lectures, the same results have followed, owing to the matter, length, and manner of the lectures being, if not antiquated, at least totally unsuited to the taste of the public. The committee of the Northern Union have expressed their conviction that the reading of Manuscript lectures forms a more social and beneficial means of instruction, by discussing the question at the conclusion of the paper than the formal system practised by professional lectures.

Literary, Mechanics', and other adult educational societies are constituted on self-governing principles, and they recognise, as a general rule, no other authority than their own selected administration; thus, while they preserve their independence of action in their connections with Unions, they co-operate rather from the confidence they repose in the managers of the Associations, than from any conviction of its value and importance. The attempts to form a central Union have always been restrained by a judicious

caution, from a knowledge of the tendency of the larger Unions to break up into sub-Unions. Three sub-Unions have already been formed in Yorkshire, which the General Union Committee jealously and hesitatingly recognises, and this is in agreement with the principles upon which the Institutions themselves are founded, and the purposes at which they aim. Any external interferance, such as government visitation, would be universally viewed as a disturbance and encroachment upon those rights which form the rock upon which these Institutions are based.

Should a great central Union be carried out under government auspices, it must, to succeed even for a brief period, be based upon such regulations as will effectually disarm the just suspicions of the advocates of voluntary education, and subdue those glowing anticipations of extraneous aid in the shape of golden grants which the mere name of an educational minister of state and a national board cannot fail to excite. On the whole, then, the experience of the past is proof of the danger of government influence, and of the instability of extreme centralization, while it affords conclusive evidence of the superior and enduring value of voluntary efforts.

VILLAGE AND FACTORY INSTITUTES AND LIBRARIES, MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT AND CHURCH OF ENGLAND SOCIETIES.

"We live in a time when great efforts are making towards the general education of all classes and all descriptions of men; and God forbid, that any one should suppose that there is any branch of education whatever, from the acquisition of which any class should be excluded; and from the knowledge of which, some benefit may not be acquired."—*Lord Liverpool.*

Nearly twenty years have passed away since Lord Brougham drew public attention to the state of education in England, and then made the startling assertion—"*that it was less provided for in the large towns than in the country districts.*" The statement of the great advocate was received with so much surprise, and doubt, that special commissioners, enquiring committees and educational societies were formed to collect statistics on the state of schools and other means of instruction in Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, London and Manchester, &c. The reports of these societies with their lamentable details of educational inefficiency, and of the deplorable prevalence of ignorance created still greater astonishment, and left Lord Brougham's evidence uncontroverted. In the interval which has elapsed, the most vigorous and satisfactory efforts have been made to provide school-houses and elementary education. Legislative provision for instructing factory children, a governmeet committee of education, and a noble rivalry in religious bodies to provide instruction to the children of their several charges have marked the last few years as replete with educational progress. The townsman believes that he has rapidly advanced beyond the rude villager, and he is confident

from his success in trading, with the peasant, that they are grossly ignorant: but ignorance prevails to a still higher degree in the close streets and its concomitant vice revels in the low beer-houses and casinos of his crowded city.

The farm labourer gazing at the hills and skies with vacuity, is undoubtedly a rude clod of earth; but he will bear favourable comparison with the noisy idler in the beershop, or the dog fancier and rat-hunter of Sheffield and Birmingham. A careful examination of the habits of the people, and an investigation of the causes of their neglect of the means of instruction at their command in all the large towns, afford, in the absence of more complete returns, strong evidence that, at the close of the first half of the nineteenth century, *education is spreading more rapidly in the country districts than in the large towns.* The lowest type of village life is the farm labourer, for the tramp, the itinerant musician, and the navigator belong neither to the country nor the town, and he alone, especially in the South and West of England has made no perceptible advance in his educational position. The *Morning Chronicle* commissioner is correct in his assertion that, "what this being was generations gone by, so he is now—a physical scandal, a moral enigma, an intellectual cataleptic." But the farm servant of the Northern and Midland Counties is generally alive to the importance of education for his children; he values the village day and sabbath schools—order and cleanliness mark his humble dwelling; and though the roof is low and rude, the walls and the stone floors shine in snowy whiteness. Examine the contents of the old deal table drawer or the small shelf in the corner, and odd numbers of Chambers' and some penny journals, sabbath school tracts, and a short tobacco-pipe,* are almost invariably found.

* The German housewife regards the pipe at home as the harbinger of domestic peace; for it is found to be the most potent antidote to the beer-house.

It must be a small town indeed where some useful lecture may not, with a little exertion and a little encouragement, be so established that the quarterly contributions of the students may afterwards suffice to continue it. Moral and political philosophy may be acceptable even where there is no field for teachers of chemistry and mechanics; and where no lecture at all can be supported, a library may be set on foot and the habit of useful reading encouraged. Every man of wealth and influence can establish in his own neighbourhood a reading club, which in many places will end in a lecture, and a Mechanics' Institution. For such a club there is hardly a village in civilised Europe too small, and it has been shown that towns of a very moderate size may support a reading room, with occasional lectures. There is a good disposition to read and to learn on the part of the working-classes.

In all the Northern Counties, including Lancashire and Yorkshire, 1849 and 1850 have witnessed a general movement amongst the village population to establish reading-rooms and libraries, while the smaller towns have fostered and encouraged the mutual improvement societies and youths' guardian associations. Manuscript lectures have been disseminated and multiplied, supplying instruction to such of the labouring population as have not received the blessings which reading confers. In this particular the lecture affords an education to the illiterate and uneducated, which lectures or discourses can alone convey. Mechanics' Institutions are peculiarly fitted for the labouring classes of the community; and the village school-room when converted in the evening into a reading-room, with a green baize covering for the tables, a few maps on the walls, and a cheerful light and blazing fire, forms a pleasing picture of peace and happiness. A few cases in agricultural, mining, pottery, and manufacturing districts will more fully illustrate the foregoing statements.

One of the best factory libraries in the kingdom was formed by Messrs. W. and D. Morris, in their mills at Chorlton, Manchester.

The mutual improvement society of these mills was preceded by a temperance movement, in which an example was furnished by the proprietors adopting the principle of abstinence; monthly meetings were held in one of the large rooms of the warehouse, and in a few months the results were shown in an enrolment of three hundred teetotalers from five hundred workers. The physical condition of the millhands next engaged the attention of the proprietors, fifteen hundred ventilators were fitted up and an extensive gymnasium formed in a play-ground parallel with the large mill, on this ground a giant-stride, a merry-go-round and swings were erected for the juveniles; skipping ropes, &c. for the girls; leaping bars and skittles for the adults and a piece of ground cleared for the boys to play at marbles. The whole of the land was surrounded with strong seats that all might enjoy their meals in the open air, or rest awhile from their sports. It has not been unusual to see from eighty to one hundred persons thus enjoying and invigorating themselves on a fine summer morning. In 1845, the mutual improvement society was established; it is located in a small building adjoining the factory yard; it is divided into class rooms, library, and news-rooms, and is well lighted with gas and ventilated. The desks, fittings, and maps on the walls have been contributed by the employers; they have also given the coals, and paid for the cleaning of the rooms. The Society consists of one hundred members, including thirty females in two divisions, the library has about seven hundred and fifty volumes, to which the subscription is one halfpenny per week, and to the news-room and library one penny per week subscription. The news and reading room is open all day, so that at meal times, or when any of the hands are waiting for work, they may pass their time in reading the various newspapers and periodicals taken in. One of the most pleasing features in connection with this society was the formation of a French class by some of the mill-hands. A French class in a cotton mill was not likely to be very numerously attended; but

eight young men were found who devoted so much zeal in the prosecution of this study, and they made "such an entrance into the language" that in a few months they subscribed for the *Journal Des Debats* supplied to them at half-price, by the Directors of the Manchester Athenæum. For six months these factory lads read the great French newspaper as it appeared, and only discontinued it when they were elevated from the mill into situations of trust in the town. Two of them went into business on their own account as principals and have been hitherto eminently successful in life. A savings' bank and a kind of co-operative association were also formed in this mill but they were not entirely successful. The co-operative association was for the purchase of tea and coffee wholesale; two thirds of the discount obtained, being 12½ per cent., was saved by the purchasers, the remaining one-third was appropriated to the support of the mutual improvement society. All fines in the mill and *forfeited wages* were handed over to the same fund. A suspension of business owing to embarrasment renders it doubtful whether this excellent little society can be continued with the same zeal and success in 1851.

The small village of Hamsterly, in the county of Durham, containing less than five hundred inhabitants, presents one of many instances of undeviating support which a few poor inhabitants bestow on their humble temple of knowledge. The Hamsterly Mechanics' Institute was established in 1826, many years before anything of the kind existed in the neighbouring towns or villages. Owing to the activity of a resident gentleman of influence, the Institution became very popular, and for several years one in every ten of the inhabitants, even women and children, were enrolled members of the society. From 1830 to 1835, the Institution declined until it reached its minimum point of twelve members, yet these working men did not despair, but once more revived the society. The original admission fee was one shilling, with sixpence per month subscription, the only reduction has been to

the present rate of fourpence per month. The number of members in 1850 was less than in the previous year, being scarcely thirty. The library is held in the village school room, and is free from any charge except fire and candles. The monies collected are expended in books, of which four hundred and eighty volumes form the library. For nearly a quarter of a century this Society has been carried on without the aid of one shilling from donations or soirées, and during that period but few itinerant lecturers have visited the village. A debating club was held for two winters, and a mutual improvement society with evening classes has also afforded instruction in the elementary branches of education to about thirty adults attending during the winter months. There is also an excellent library of five hundred volumes in connection with the Baptist Chapel, but the issues are small owing to the select character of the works. Two societies for intellectual improvement, two libraries, evening classes, and a debating society, in a population of five hundred souls, is an evidence of the awakening spirit of mental improvement even in a remote northern village.

The agricultural districts of Yorkshire now present the same growing thirst for intellectual improvement which has long distinguished its manufacturing towns above other counties in Britain. The villages in the east and north ridings, no less than those in the districts of Ripon, Pontefract and Knaresbro,' have all established their Mechanics' Institutions, with evening classes and lectures. The village of Ripley contains three hundred inhabitants, who are entirely dependant on agriculture. The houses have the appearance of small villa residences, and the main street is ornamented with a neat enclosure of evergreens. The Ripley Mechanics' Institution was commenced in a hayloft over a stable, here its library was collected, and from this humble repository of learning its issues of books and magazines took place.

The county of Nottingham contains a population generally alive to the importance of education. The inhabitants of the town of

Nottingham are among the most intelligent in the midland counties, and their political tendencies, from their knowledge of the rights of men and of citizens, has constantly displayed itself in their choice of parliamentary representatives. Nearly every village is affected by the spirit which animates the county town, and possess amongst its few features of interest its library and its Mechanics' Institute. The parish of Edwinstowe, on the confines of Sherwood Forest, has a population of two hundred and fifty adult males, and of this number upwards of fifty are members of the village Institute. This forest library has existed for twelve years, without honorary members or donations. Its privileges are available to all on payment of one penny per week; occasional lectures and an annual tea party are the only attractive events in its career. The usefulness of this rural society has been tested, not alone in the absence of local criminal cases from the county calendar, but in its having sent forth two of its humble members, writers who have for some time embellished our periodical literature and who are now taking their rank among the poets of the day.

The Mechanics' Institution at Wellingborough, has been held in the workhouse for ten years, and flourishes.

Public Libraries afford one of the earliest instances in which the idea for voluntary association, for literary purposes, was practically embodied. For the period in which they were founded they represent popular and comprehensive principles. Unobtrusive in their working, they afford no data upon which to estimate their entire usefulness, but it is certain that they were the origin of intellectual improvement in many local communities, and prepared the public taste for the formation of Philosophical Institutions. Their chief defect has been an exclusive and aristocratic spirit in their conditions of membership and in the choice of works supplied. In many instances they have been rendered subservient to the wishes of one or two individuals who have desired rare, expensive, and learned works, which were

unsuited to the taste of the general reader* In this respect they have become, for the most part, intellectual catacombs of learning instead of repositories of useful knowledge, and cannot enter into the catalogue of active existing instruments of adult education.

CLERICAL AND PAROCHIAL LIBRARIES owe their general establishment to Dr. Bray, about the year 1704. The majority of these libraries were instituted expressly for the use of the "indigent clergy." The earliest known parochial library in England, was founded by Sir John Kederminster, at Langley, in Buckingham, in the year 1623. Three clerical libraries were established later in the same century, one at Wisbeach in 1660, one at Bishop Stortford in 1664, and the third at Tong in 1697.

Dr. Bray founded sixty libraries in England and Wales between the years 1704 and 1756. A society known as "the Associates of Dr. Bray," followed up the scheme of founding country libraries, and established seventy-eight libraries within half-a-century after his death. Of these, thirty-seven were at one period lending libraries to approved persons, who were required to deposit the value of the books borrowed. The total number of Clerical and Parochial Libraries in England and Wales, irrespective of Cathedral Libraries, is about one hundred and seventy; of these, and twenty in Scotland, only eight have been established in the present century, and not more than ten are at present used even by the clergy. The abuses connected with these much neglected bequests, are of a gross character; hundreds of valuable books are immured in boxes and casks in damp places, speckled with decay, and awaiting parliamentary enquiry and interference.†

* The influence of a popular historian in Scotland, was sufficient to procure the Wellington Dispatches for his own reference. The cost of this work absorbed nearly the whole of the annual sum allowed to be expended in one book society to which he subscribed. The dominant power of the Church, exercises a restrictive and pernicious influence in the Public Library of Leeds and other towns.

† In a work of this character, an exposure of mistrust would only generate personal animosity. It must be left for a parliamentary enquiry to bring forth undoubted evidence of thousands of volumes available for the theological sections of two hundred provincial libraries.

The date of the establishment of the first circulating library of a miscellaneous character in England is unknown. The system of lending new books was probably commenced when the old London booksellers found the fashion of the day had made their shops the lounge of the learned, the idle, and the profligate, it was then probably thought necessary to accommodate the more studious with the new books at home.

The first Circulating Library in the West of Scotland was established at Glasgow, in 1753, by Mr. John Smith, who lent out books at one half-penny per volume.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES have been formed in many of the great cities of Europe with the most satisfactory results. Commercial Libraries of reference exist in the French seaport towns, in Hamburgh, in Liverpool, and in Manchester. The Glasgow, Newcastle, Leeds, and Manchester Mechanics' Institutions are rich in mathematical and mechanical books, specifications of inventions, and the works of the best writers on chemistry, dyeing, &c. The Mechanics' Institutions of Newcastle, Stockton, Darlington, Sunderland, Hanley, and the Potteries possess the best treatises on geology and mineralogy, earths, &c.

ITINERATING LIBRARIES of useful and miscellaneous works, owe their origin to Mr. Brown, of Haddington, who established several in East Lothian, and the neighbouring districts, in the year 1817. The books were allotted at such distances that the residence of no subscriber was more than a mile and a half from a depôt, and the entire district extended nearly twenty miles. For several years they made slow progress with the people, and it was not until twelve years after their establishment that these libraries succeeded. In 1830, and the following years they were much extended by the addition of a large number of general works. The books remained for two years in each division, and were issued to all persons above twelve years of age. The books were kept for a few years for the use of subscribers, paying annually,

five shillings, but afterwards they were formed into divisions of fifty volumes, and lent out on payment of one penny a volume for the first year, and gratis for the second year, provided that the books were exchanged within one month. At the expiration of two years the books were removed to another town or village, and a new division sent to replace them, which, after the usual term was again exchanged for another. The proportion of theological and religious works gradually increased, while those in connection with the study of history, biography, and travels, received few additions. From this cause, and irregularity in the removals, a general discontent arose, and the success, which attended the establishment of these libraries in East Lothian, rapidly declined. The sectional libraries have few books remaining. The number of divisions into which they were allotted is twenty, but they are almost entirely in-operative from the want of a sufficient amount of light literature and fiction. The first Mechanics' Institutions at Haddington and Dunbar arose from the Itinerating Libraries, but these Societies have ceased to exist. The Itinerating Libraries established in the Highlands of Scotland, have been for a long time in-operative, and the stock is much dilapidated or destroyed.

From 1809 to 1810, several subscription libraries were opened in various parts of Scotland, but few of these existed for more than ten to fifteen years from the books being worn out and the want of funds to replace them or to purchase others. A library of this kind was formed in 1809, at Crossgates, four miles from Dumfernline, it was continued for twenty-eight years with varied success. In 1837, it was changed into an Itinerating Library. Novelty gave a slight stimulus and brought a few donations. Dr. S. Brown delivered two lectures, and by renewed exertions four hundred and fifty volumes were collected and annually divided between Crossgates and seven surrounding villages, on payment of a subscription of one shilling. The secretary however has borne

his testimony "that none of the divisions ever did well, except those immediately under Mr. Bethune (the pastors') superintendence, and when that gentleman left Beith the whole rapidly declined until only two sections remained." These appear to have been completely dormant and cast aside into a corner with little hope of rendering them again useful. A careful enquiry into the operation and condition of the Itinerating Libraries of Scotland has led to the almost unanimous recorded opinion of those who have laboured in the work of carrying on the divisions, that it is only as a missionary task that the system can be again revived and carried on, even if fiction entered largely into the new libraries. They generally complain that the people are not advancing in intellect or in taste, but admit at the same time, that their behaviour is less rude than it was twenty years ago. The committee of the Northern Union of Mechanics' Institutions have established an Itinerating Library on such a plan as to provide each associated Institute in rotation, and for a stated period of time, with a certain number of volumes. So great has been the success of the experiment in six months, that owing to the limited supply of new books in rural districts, the committee have been unable to meet the demand. As the works partake of the miscellaneous character they are eagerly sought for, and the Itinerating Library system promises to produce in the Northern Counties of England incalculable good.

Village Libraries are receiving the support of the landed proprietary and the ministers of every religious denomination. They are spreading throughout the West of England, and overcoming the pestilential cheap literature which the Metropolis for a few years has been vomiting forth. In the South and East of England education is creeping stealthily forward, while the North is throwing out unnumbered means of usefulness in Itinerating Libraries in Mechanics' Institutions, in evening classes, in debating societies, and in scientific lectures, to which the toiling mining

population of Durham and Northumberland proceed over the hills in rain, sleet, and frost, that they may learn the great truths which civilization has made manifest. Mr. Richardson, a self-educated man, has obtained incessant occupation for fifteen years, in lecturing to the inhabitants of the scattered villages of the Northern Counties, on electricity, pneumatics, &c., travelling day by day, by cart, by rail and by coach far from the great towns and public highways, with his extensive and beautiful electrical apparatus, valued at £500; acting as an invaluable expounder of the great, yet simple laws of science to the untutored villager. Somewhat provincial in his dialect, perfect as a manipulator, and correct in his statements, he never fails to interest and instruct. To remove this lecturer to a higher sphere, would be to leave a void which it would be scarcely possible from the long list of itinerating lecturers to supply. The scientific lecturer creates a demand for the best works on the subjects embraced in his discourse, and hence every Mechanics' Institution library has a large proportion of useful books, which are lent out on the evenings the libraries are open. Unless Village Libraries are open in the evening they decline, and whenever attention is given to this particular, as well as to a due assortment of light literature, the library has never been found to fail in obtaining influence and numbers. It has also been found, that long after lectures, soirees, and even classes have lost their attraction, that the library finds favour with the steady subscribers, in proportion to the extent of amusing works on its shelves.

The Library having the largest circulation in the kingdom is THE EDINBURGH MECHANICS' SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY; which was formed in the year 1825, by three students of the Edinburgh School of Arts, who were desirous of prosecuting their studies in the summer session when their school was closed. The leading booksellers, Messrs. Constable & Co., and Mr. Adam Black generously came forward with munificent donations, expressing their desire

that a library should be formed for the use of all the working men of the city, and that it should not be restricted to works of science, but embrace every department of literature. At first the library was opened for an hour, on one or two evenings in the week. As the members and the books increased, the time was gradually extended, until the library was kept open throughout every day and evening. In the first five years the members rose to an average of three hundred and fifty two, and increased annually until it attained twelve hundred members, paying five shillings as an entrance fee and one shilling and sixpence per quarter subscription. The subscribers to the library are chiefly working men and are all readers. The library contains nearly eighteen thousand volumes, and the issues nearly amount to two hundred thousand per annum, as each member is allowed to take out two entire works. This establishment so extensive in its workings, and so moderate in its fees, one shilling and sixpence per quarter, is located in the basement of a large house, in a back street, in the centre of Edinburgh. The library which is attained by a back stair, dimly lighted, and ever thronged, owes much of its success to its economical management, if not to its unobtrusive and silent operations. Its chief defect is the want of a reading-room, or convenience for examining the works known only by the titles, before they are conveyed from the premises; but as novels and light literature form two-thirds of the issues, this desideratum has not been obtained, although frequently demanded by many of the subscribers

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS established in England during the years 1824 to 1835, with few exceptions, received the most direct opposition from that powerful section of the community the clergy of the established church. In the Metropolis neither the indifference nor the fears of incumbents and curates appear to have been heeded by the people; but in the provinces where their influence was greater, they for some time retarded the growth of these societies, and it was found that the only advocates for the

extension of education were dissenting ministers, who readily and cordially bestowed their aid, adding strength and stability to the adult schools of the country. When it was discovered that these Institutes had become formidable and enduring means of moral instruction, the more enlightened of the clergy, who perceived that antagonism was abortive, adopted a middle course and collected around them the young men of their several congregations and formed them into societies which they termed Church of England Institutions. The plan and arrangement of these societies so closely resembled the Mechanics' Institutions, that with few exceptions, the only difference to be found was the exclusive test of membership that every applicant should be subscribers to one form of creed—members of the church recognised by the law of the country. In many towns, where the dissenters were few and unimportant, the base upon which the Institutes were founded was sufficient to ensure their comparative success as at Stourbridge, Bradford, Wakefield, and Hereford; but in Leeds, Sheffield, and Bury, where religious feeling was more divided, antagonism to the societies, open to all irrespective of creed, soon left the clergy and the managers with heavy responsibilities which they were compelled to meet with their private purses. The failure of the second attempt to frown down Mechanics' Institutions, together with the desultory mode of management and too prominent attention to amusement, apparent in their later proceedings, led many of the clergy of the established church to solicit evangelical ministers, of all denominations, to join with them in forming associations, from the various christian congregations of the town, "for the improvement of the spiritual and mental condition of young men." To so good and important a work every facility was afforded by a large proportion of the religious public, and Institutions under various titles were ushered into existence.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, of London, was commenced in 1844, and received the support of many leading

linen drapers in the Metropolis, who were solicitous for the moral character of their young men. This Society has been in existence six years; and it has effected incalculable benefit upon the young men associated in it, but financially considered, the Association has proved a greater failure than any Literary Institution, (except the British and Foreign Institute,) for with donations of money to an extent nearly approaching two thousand pounds, with no rooms of its own, its only property a library of one thousand volumes, chiefly donations, and an increasing debt of two hundred and fifty pounds, it is, at the close of its sixth year with six hundred members, in the words of the report, "only by a large increase in the number of subscribers that the Association can be saved from pecuniary difficulties." The income of the Society in 1849, with its four branches of West End, Southwark, Islington, and Kennington, was two thousand one hundred and fifty pounds, including nine hundred and twenty four pounds, special donations; and its expenditure amounted to two thousand one hundred pounds, including these heavy items: repairs and furnishing, five hundred and twenty pounds; lectures, &c., five hundred and seventy pounds; salaries, two hundred and eighty five pounds. In 1848, the number of pupils attending the evening classes was one hundred and ten; in 1849, it was two hundred, and in 1850, one hundred and fifty, including classes for French, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Psalmody. The biblical instruction classes and devotional evenings "have been characterised by vitality, harmony and simplicity." The influence of the Association has been extended into the large towns of England, and capital cities of Scotland and Ireland. Branch Associations have been formed in Dublin, Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester, Stafford, Plymouth, Huddersfield, Ipswich, Barnstable, Hull, Southampton, and Derby, but the actual number of members in each society is very small. Neither Birmingham or Manchester can boast of one hundred *bona fide* members, notwithstanding the attractions of tea, as a preliminary

to the evening meetings, lectures, and a news-room supplied with the leading periodicals. It was not contended that public amusements at certain intervals were an impropriety, but that the amusements, which had been blended with the working of Mechanics' Institutes, did not afford that moral and intellectual instruction which was congenial to the dignity and destination of man. It was asserted, that as knowledge of every description should be subservient to the illustration of divine truth by the advancement of the human race in morality, and in preparing them for the employment of the future and eternal,—it is the duty of all christian ministers to institute and support a new class of societies embodying these principles. The Sunday school teachers presented the first available material for carrying out this object.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN YOUNG MEN'S SOCEITY was established in 1836, and did not arise from the circumstances indicated, but was of the character of the reformation societies alluded to in the first chapter of this work. This Association endeavoured to carry out one arrangement of immense importance in large towns, no less than providing lodging houses in which its members were received and preserved from dangerous associations by a circle of christian friends with whom moral young men could find sympathy and happiness. The first operations of this society were successful, especially in Bristol, but it never acquired a permanent interest with the class whom it was designed to improve.

The principal SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE was established at Liverpool, in 1846, and presented the following advantages to its members, who were required to be Sunday school teachers or to be proposed by one of that class: *First*, a good reference library of standard works on the study of the scriptures, dictionaries, maps, concordances, and on Jewish and christian antiquities. *Second*, a bible class conducted by ministers of various denominations. *Third*, lectures. *Fourth*, a reading room supplied with

magazines and newspapers. *Fifth*, a circulating library, embracing history, travels, and belles lettres. In the first year, five hundred members were enrolled, of whom four hundred were connected with the sabbath schools of every evangelical denomination in the town.

THE CHRISTIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE at St. Mary's Cray, in Kent, was established through the influence of Messrs. Johnson and Smith, the proprietors of the paper mills, who erected a building for the use of the Institution. To prepare the population for the full advantage of such an Institution, the proprietors established a school, and appointed a master at their own expense to reside upon the premises. The advantages offered by the Institution, are morning and evening classes, geographical class, singing class, bible class, frequent lectures, a library of fifteen hundred volumes, and a museum of natural curiosities. No sectarian principle is admitted into the management; Sunday-school teachers of all denominations of christians, and the elder scholars of day and sunday schools are at liberty to avail themselves of the advantages of the society. This Institution affords an excellent model, and indicates a certain means by which the great mill-owners in the manufacturing districts may improve the character of their workpeople.

SCHOOLS OF DESIGN. The Government Schools of Design were established in the year 1837, and it was seven years before they were placed in good working condition. During this period, an expensive Government machinery and stringent regulations were adopted, which restricted the developement and circumscribed the operations of the metropolitan as well as the provincial schools. Schools of Design, from their foundation have been regarded as a means of creating new and important branches of industry, and the plea upon which the public money has been annually granted, is the instruction of designers and embryo designers. Neither of these expectations or conditions have been fulfilled,

and the schools, metropolitan and provincial, after an existence of twelve years, have neither produced classes of design, or created one new branch of industrial art. The English manufacturer continues to resort to the continent for his new patterns and styles of goods, and the English designer subscribes for the earliest copies of Parisian novelties as they emanate from the studio or the workshop. It is well known that in England, ornamental manufactures, are to a great extent, dependant on the taste and invention of neighbouring countries, in consequence of the special education which is provided in those countries, for all who by natural taste or the influence of circumstances are led to obtain employment in the various branches of artistic manufacture. In France and in Germany there is ample provision for imparting a knowledge of the principles of drawing, design, and color in application to decorative work of every description ; and the professional Ornamentist receives the same consideration in society, as the professor of Fine Art. Hence the various styles of art are not only more carefully studied by continental artists, but are more generally known to the people, than in England. This superior knowledge constitutes an advantage of great value in improving their judgment, by extended comparison, in indicating a variety of objects for imitation, and in suggesting new combinations of the materials of design, and novelties in application. The foreign manufacturer is required to satisfy not merely the taste of his countrymen but their critical judgment. He must not only gratify the eye by means of harmonious coloring and delightful form, but must be careful not to violate consistency and propriety of style; since, in a manner which has probably never been suggested to manufacturers in this country, he appals to interesting associations, which imply accurate historical knowledge of art and its constituents. In England there has been a careful avoidance of teaching even the mere outlines of mechanical processes. The student, especially in the metropolitan school, has been surrounded

by semi-royal officials and their concomitant cold dignity, until they have imbibed a contempt for mere mechanical skill. Unlike the student on the continent, they never visit the workshops of the mechanics, the mill of the cotton spinner, the casting sheds of the founder, or the moulding and painting rooms of the potter.

Although the English Schools of Design do not deserve the reproach of being schools of low art,—places for training candidates for rejection by the Royal Academies, they have undoubtedly disappointed the expectations of those who advocated their formation and produced evidence of the necessity of some establishment for the education of the English designer. The Government Schools of Design have hitherto required all students to begin with copying, and such has been the general disappointment to the pupils at finding themselves month after month at the same task, that they have left the schools in disappointment, if not in disgust. After eleven years' existence, the metropolitan school remains without its class of practical designers, and the number of advanced pupils has not proportionally increased.

The cost of conducting the Government Schools of Design is excessive, and by average and comparison, exceeds all other educational establishments in the country. The cost of instructing every pupil at Somerset House, exclusive of the large items, stock apparatus, furniture, repairs, &c., is nearly nine pounds per annum. If tested by the actual number of pupils *in attendance*, this sum would be increased fully one-third. The nett cost to the country of the public money, for mere instruction, after deducting the fees paid by the pupils, and all costs, for examples, furniture, rent, &c., varies from five to seven pounds in London, or double the cost of the same instruction (equally elementary) in the provincial schools.*

The Government provincial Schools of Design, when compared with the Mechanics' Institutions located in the same towns, present

* Letter to the Committee of the House of Commons, on Schools of Designs, by Dr. J. W. Hudson.

powerful evidence in favor of voluntary efforts, and purely local management. In one case, not only is the public purse taxed for the support of illmanaged expensive establishments, which fail in their chief object—the education of designers—but local donations and annual subscriptions have to be raised from the pockets of those who have no voice in regulating the manner or nature of the instruction. In the other instance, the middle classes and the working men come forward, and as part of their system of disseminating general and useful knowledge, establish classes of practical utility, teaching mathematical, mechanical, and architectural drawing, on a scale of fees averaging one-third less than the charge at the national establishments. There is not an active partner or practical manager of any large engineering establishment in Manchester, Glasgow, Leeds, and Newcastle, who is not enabled to point out either in his own person, or in his best hands, the former students of the drawing classes of the Mechanics' Institution. These classes have indeed proved greater aids to manufacturing industry, than all the government schools of design united.*

The committee of the Schools of Design who are frequently compelled by the force of public discontent, to institute enquiries as to the requirements of the schools, and then to patch up the system by new suggestions, have recently fallen into the sparkling idea, that subsidiary institutions should be formed to afford the elementary instruction necessary to fit pupils for their higher schools, and, although it is evident they would seek the assistance of Mechanics' Institutions, they offer no scheme of practical manufacturing, or inventive usefulness, but carefully retain their inadequate and futile system of teaching art, by simply copying

* If the Mechanics' Institutions have occasion to appeal to the public for support, the *Government* Schools of Design are more generally petitioners for the same bounty, and not unfrequently, as at Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, and York, have been compelled to assert that their existence depended on this precarious source of supply.

from the antique. The result is the indifference, both of the public and the managers of these Institutions, to assist them with their purse, or, even their sympathy. As it is absolutely necessary that the designer should have an industrial education, a school of design must be a school of arts and manufactures, an Institution where the details of manufacturing processes are taught, where the practical portions of the painter's art of mixing and combining colors, so as to produce a variety of tints, is exhibited ; where the chemistry of color is made the study of the pupil, and where botany is understood, and called into requisition by the student as he advances in the production of design. A knowledge of, and a taste for, the fine arts require to be cultivated by the designer ; at the same time, there is great force in the statement of the late Dr. Cooke Taylor, that "we go to artists for pictures, but we go to designers for teapots, and the best figure drawing in the world would console very few of us for having our breakfast spoiled. The ornamental comes *after* the useful ; the convolvulus stem must not be stuck on the flowers of the ranunculus ; nor the form of the creeping plant be given to the climbing plant ; neither should the flowers of spring and autumn be absurdly blended ; for the harmonies of nature, which art may imitate, but cannot improve, are thereby effectually destroyed."

In some towns, as at Newcastle and Macclesfield, societies have been formed for the promotion of the arts, and for the cultivation of design, and their success has been highly satisfactory, The specimens of art which the members have exhibited ; the criticism upon them, the essays on the departments of the manufacturing arts, which the students have produced, have been highly creditable, and improving to all who have participated in their meetings.

FARMERS' CLUB.

The Farmers' Clubs and Agricultural Societies of the country rarely afford elementary instruction to the labourer, or the families of the small farmers. With the funds they have at their command,

and with their ample conveniences for the establishment of small reading-rooms, libraries, and evening classes, they might prove of incalculable benefit to the humbler classes. In the institution of allotments, these Clubs have been of essential service to a great number of honest and industrious labourers, and their reports almost invariably record, with satisfaction, the small amount of rents in arrear. The county of Norfolk has many excellent farmers' clubs, established at the suggestion and with the aid of Mr. Bacon, the talented editor of the *Norwich Mercury*, but their operations are exclusively directed to the improvement of cattle and land. The Stewponey Agricultual Society, established in 1841, with Stourbridge for its centre, is one of the best in the country, it possesses a valuable library, it has an eminent chemist engaged to lecture in the branch societies, and to analyze soils and manures. Its other features are a Beecher club for life insurance and endowments, with provision in old age; an allotment society, with upwards of five hundred acres, underlet to five hundred and eighty seven labourers, whose gardens are cultivated in an admirable manner; and a loan society, making small advances from one to fifteen pounds, that after an operation of some years, reports an increase of capital, and not one penny lost of the money lent to the labouring classes.

At Welshpool, there is a Farmers' Club, that provides instruction in reading to the agricultural labourers, and at a few other places in Wales, the same attention is paid to their mental improvement. At Wigton, in Cumberland, and at Wadebridge and Probus, in Cornwall, Farmers' Clubs have been established with small libraries and occasional lectures, and at Stockton-on-Tees, a reading room has been opened for their use. The itinerating libraries of the Northern Union of Institutes, in Northumberland and Cumberland, and especially in the agricultural districts of these counties, are preparing the labourers for the village institute which will soon become indispensable.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETIES. It is much to be regretted that all the attempts which have been made in the metropolis, *by public societies*, for the moral improvement of the working classes, have proved complete failures. If we except the fiercer passions, it will be found that the men employed in manufactories in London, have not made any visible moral improvement in the last twenty years. It has been sufficiently attested, that the public-houses and beer-shops, notwithstanding their enormous increase, are still crowded, "and hundreds of them are filled with workmen on Sunday, as dirty as if they had not washed themselves since they left work on the Saturday." The public-houses have made some advance, for the number of newspapers has been greatly increased, and in some instances nights have been set apart for political discussions, which have been well sustained in the bar parlours. At an inn in the Kennington-road, lectures on astronomy have been delivered to attentive smokers, before whom were the ale-pots and the alcoholic mixtures. In several of the suburban districts a few books are being introduced into the public houses for the use of parlour visitors, and there is an indication of improvement springing up which may commend the future.

In one manufactory in Lambeth, where upwards of one thousand men were constantly employed, it was ascertained that not more than thirty-three attended public worship, and only fourteen of them were members of any Christian church.

In 1840, a society was established in the most populous portion of the parish of Lambeth, having for its object, the religious, moral, and intellectual improvement of men engaged in manufactories, by means of a library and lectures. For six years, it confined its operations to the district in which it was located, but in 1846, it extended its sphere of usefulness. In the years 1847, 1848, and 1849, auxiliary societies were formed in Vauxhall, Westminster, Shadwell, Bermondsey, Millwall, and Southwark, but

the number of members who were enrolled, after a visit to seventy manufactories, was only two hundred and fifty, upon the small sums of one penny, and twopence per month. To Mr. Austen, the secretary, who laboured incessantly in this good work every praise is due, and it will be regretted that the attempt should have failed. As far as the causes of ill success can be ascertained, the want of attraction, such as small news and reading-rooms, and a greater extent of amusing books in the libraries appear the most prominent.

Many of the large linen drapers have established libraries for their young men. The library for the use of the shopmen of Messrs. Sewell and Co's. establishment exceeds one thousand volumes, and it is supplied with newspapers and magazines. Messrs. Hitchcock and Rogers, Messrs. Swan and Edgar, and a few of the other leading establishments of this nature in London, have libraries and reading-rooms for their young men, who occasionally have lectures and discussions. The barracks and the police-stations are now provided with excellent libraries.

With the exception of the two thousand coffee-houses, which the metropolis contains, there is no provision made for the improvement of the working mechanic, with which he is disposed to connect himself for intellectual culture. The London Mechanics', the Westminster, and the Greenwich Institutions, have but few of the labouring classes enrolled in their books, and the Christian associations of London do not possess a greater intellectual proportion of the working mechanics. There is still no provision in the great metropolis adapted to the youthful minds of those who are daily leaving the free schools, (National, British, and Congregational,) the cheap academies, and the Sunday schools, to take up their position as the working men of this country. The youth who leave these schools have acquired a taste for learning which should not, as at present, be obliterated from their minds as soon as they are introduced as apprentices, or assistants in shops and manufactories, where crowded assemblages of human beings work

in close contact, and exercise a powerful influence over the future career of the noviciate, and upon all who are so associated. The establishment of *free* circulating libraries, of *free* news-rooms, and cheap evening schools, might effect much good, at little cost, when that cost is measured by the generosity of the wealthy.

IRELAND.

THE LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES OF IRELAND represent the same state of inactivity and uselessness that characterises similar institutions in Great Britain. In Dublin especially, they fail from the blunder of maintaining a number of separate expensive establishments, instead of combining all the sections of science, literature and philosophy in one general and easy accessible Institution. In Ireland, Mechanics' Institutions have never prospered for any lengthened period, owing to a variety of causes, not the least of which has been a strong political and sectarian animosity that has paralised committees and alienated members. If a thorough appreciation of the advantages of education; if earnestness and enthusiasm alone could have secured the well-being of these societies, the character of the middle classes in Ireland would have completed the work. Government influence and funds have also been extended to these Institutions, but it has been coldly and suspiciously accepted, and its effects even if well intended have been rather pernicious than beneficial. For several years the most talented lecturers of the United Kingdom were engaged, at the government expense, to deliver lectures in the principal Mechanics' Institutions in Ireland, but notwithstanding the attraction and the relief to the funds of the various societies in the country, the success was evanescent. The larger towns of Ireland have however their Institutions for the working, as well as the middle classes of society, as the tabular returns demonstrate, but the poorer classes are still without the means of mental improvement, beyond the works which are freely circulated from religious houses by the Roman Catholic priesthood. In 1843, it

was proved by the editor of one of the principal Irish journals, that the country "was so miserably off for books, that there were ten counties in Ireland without a single bookseller in them." In the following year, an attempt was made to establish reading-rooms in every populous parish in the country, and by the aid of strong political interest, no less than two hundred repeal reading-rooms were established in a few months, but *from the want of books and magazines* they soon became mere gossiping rooms and were given up.

FRANCE.

Such is the peculiar political character of the French people, that the government of 1823-4 finding the schools of mutual instruction, which had been established between 1800 and 1820 by benevolent societies or individuals, were perverted from their original objects and made the means of organising and associating the disaffected to the government, resolved to suppress them, and this policy, adopted by M. de. Corbiere, has been followed by every succeeding minister of the interior. France has therefore but one Mechanics' Institution, and this is in the capitol. The *Conservatoire des Arts et Metiers* is a society, similar in its object, but not in its origin, to the Mechanics' Institutes in England. The public lectures delivered in this Institution, by appointed professors, on subjects of natural philosophy, and especially on chemistry as applied to the arts and manufactures, are attended by working-men and all persons have gratuitous admission.

GERMANY.

The ample means provided by the several states of Germany, to secure to their people the blessings which even elementary education confers upon all classes and communities, has rendered it scarcely necessary to establish mechanics or adult instruction societies. As early as the seventeenth century, public lectures were provided in Germany for the instruction of the people. Competent lecturers were engaged by the States, to give illustrated discourses,

in simple language, to suit the capacity of the labourer, the mechanic, and the apprentice; and these lectures have been delivered for upwards of a century, at fixed periods in each year, with especial attention, in many instances, to mechanical geometry. At Hamburg, a Mechanics' Institute, or *Bildungs-verein*, was formed in 1848, for the instruction of labourers, by means of evening classes. In a short time, five hundred members were enrolled, including the shoemender, the sweep, and the paviors of the public street; but when the revolution broke out at Berlin, Dresden, and Vienna, it was found that the Bildungs-verein became a scene of political excitement, and the extreme republicans converted it into an arena of political uproar. The senate, or government of Hamburg, immediately suppressed the Institution. Every city in Germany is provided with its minature Athenæum, its classes for instruction and conversation in foreign languages, its news-room, or Lesezimmer, well supplied with English, French, Danish, Belgian, and other foreign journals, its harmonie and museum, for part singing, chess and billiards, its gymnasium, and its smoking rooms; but it is usual for these attractions to be divided into separate and distinct societies, bearing their individual subscriptions at very moderate rates. Hamburgh, has a new society called the *Lese Halle Institut*, with twelve hundred members; Berlin, has its *Lese Halle;* Leipzig and Prague, have Institutions, reading rooms, and classes, by the title of *Museum.*

ITALY.

The ignorant and degraded state of the peasantry of Italy, and the poorer inhabitants of its large towns, is so well known, that it has received the commiseration of Europe. In 1836, an attempt was made at Rome, by Gigli, an advocate, and Casoglio, a wood carver, to introduce some system of adult education, by means of evening classes. Two schools were established where young mechanics were invited to attend and receive instruction

in reading, writing, arithmetic, and religious doctrines. These schools were soon afterwards increased to eight, and continued for seven years to impart moral and useful instruction. In 1842, it was computed that there were one thousand persons under this form of instruction in Rome. For some time previous to the revolution, the schools rapidily declined, and with the increase of public excitement, they were abandoned.

The Tuscan Government maintains five professors, attached to the public museum and botanic gardens, at Florence, for the regular delivery of lectures, *free to all classes.*

AMERICA.

It has been correctly asserted that America seldom adopts anything useful from the Old World that she does not improve; and it is certain that in establishing and carrying out a system of public libraries, colleges, and Mechanics' Institutions, the United States have far excelled Great Britain. The perfect Mechanics' Institution can only be found in the Western World, for in no part of Europe can a Peoples' Institute be seen in which machine shops supplied with necessary mechanical tools for the accommodation of the diligent and for inventors, is accessible to all; where the laboratory is available for chemical instruction and experiments; where *free* lectures, on scientific and literary subjects are systematically delivered to the working classes, and where that class alone has the management of the Institutions established for their benefit. Literary, Scientific, and Mercantile Libraries were formed, in New York and in Boston, as early as the year 1820. These societies required each subscriber to present to the library one or more volumes, either in biography, history, voyages, travels, or works relating to mercantile subjects, and chiefly by this means libraries of one thousand volumes were formed in three years. Any person engaged in mercantile pursuits, was eligible to all the privileges of the associations for a small annual fee. The

management was vested solely in the class for whom the associations were designed, namely,—merchants clerks, and persons holding subordinate mercantile offices; merchants and others engaged in non-mercantile employments were admitted members, but took no share in the direction. At the Boston Mercantile Library Association lectures were delivered as early as 1823. The establishment of Mercantile Libraries was followed by the formation of Mechanics and Apprentices' Libraries, with a degree of energy and public spirit that extended its influence across the Atlantic. (Anti page 45.)

The Franklin Institute of Pensylvania for the promotion of the mechanic and useful arts, and secured with the privileges of a public corporate body, was established in 1826. A regular system of lectures was at once adopted, four professorships created, namely,—natural philosophy, chemistry and mineralogy, architecture and mechanics. One evening, weekly, was set apart for lectures on miscellaneous subjects. A library, a mineralogical collection, a museum, and a cabinet of models commenced. In the same year, six hundred members were enrolled, and an exhibition of manufactures held, at which premiums were awarded. This admirable Institution, after an existence of a quarter of a century, forms a striking contrast with our older Mechanics' Institutions, after the lapse of the same period. Its library has grown to thirty-six thousand volumes. Its lectures are weekly, and *free*; its museum is perfect in the works of nature and art; it has a board of civil engineers belonging to it, who are bound to examine any machine or composition of matter that may be brought before them, and their report is published in the *Monthly Journal* of the Society. Annual fairs or exhibitions of the mechanics' arts are also held.

The Maryland Institute in Baltimore, possesses all the features that distinguish the Franklin Institution, with the addition of its machine shop for the accommodation of inventors, its labora-

tory for chemical experiments, its monthly journal, and its *weekly mechanical and scientific newspaper.*

Nearly all the Mechanics' Institutions of the United States hold annual fairs for the exhibition of the mechanical arts, and any person has the privilege of depositing machinery or manufactured goods of any description, or the raw material. These exhibitions or fairs, generally last two or three weeks, and are profitable, not only to the Institution, but to the persons exhibiting machinery or goods.

THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS of New York are deserving both of the attention and admiration of the friends of the working classes of Great Britain. With regard to the Library departments alone, to which must be added, lectures, classes, workshops, and exhibitions, and in some cases, museums, they present a high state of advancement.

New York Society,	admission	fee, small.....	40,000 vols.
Mercantile Library,	„	„	25,000 „
Apprentices' Library,	„	„	13,000 „
Mechanics'	„	„	10,000 „
American Institute	„	„	10,000 „

The inhabitants of our Canadian possessions, have been stimulated by their neighbours, to institute literary societies for the middle classes of their large towns of a high order. The mercantile associations of Montreal, Quebec, Hamilton, and Toronto, are in no way inferior to the principal Athenæums and Literary and Scientific Institutions of the mother country, while the Mechanics' Institutes in the same towns, afford an example worthy of imitation at home. Their libraries are comparatively extensive, and their annual exhibitions are purely of a practical nature, affording the best popular evidence of the progress of scientific discovery. The managers of the Canadian Mechanics' Institutions endeavour to instil into the minds of their members, a regard for the great principles of the arts, and they seem to impress upon the

thousands who visit their exhibitions, the importance of the study of physical science, as the chief element in the developement of civilization. Their exhibitions extend beyond the polytechnic exhibitions of London, for while they elucidate, by short lectures, the value and importance of new discoveries in science, the best methods of farming, and point out the desirability of creating as it were, new articles of produce, they carefully abstain from the fire-cloud and phantasmagoria, and apportion their receipts to the extension of the library, and the improvement of the mechanical workshops. Niagara and Amherstburgh have recently established Mechanics' Institutions.

West Indies. *Societies for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge* have been established in the Bahamas, and in Jamaica. The Society in Nassau publishes its proceedings.

INDIA.

Mechanics' Institutions may boast of an existence in our eastern possessions. The first attempt in India proved a financial failure from the liberal benefactions it received at its commencement.

The Calcutta Mechanics' Institute was formed in 1839, and possessed at first sixty members, a large library and ten thousand rupees in its exchequer. Lectures on physical science, manufactures, commerce, agriculture, and the arts were delivered, and a number of paid instructors (who did little more than absorb the funds) were also engaged. The Institution declined until 1843, when an attempt was made to revive it under the name of Lyceum, but this was unsuccessful, and the Institution came to an end shortly afterwards. A Mechanics' and Mutual Improvement Society has been formed at Madras, but its operations are limited.

The Bombay Mechanics' Institution was established in 1848, and commenced operations with a valuable course of scientific lectures. The success of this Institution has exceeded the expectations of its founders, for it has received the constant support of almost all the working engineers and mechanics of the presi-

dency. Its most remarkable feature has been the delivery of its lectures in the workshop and in the manufactory. The lectures on printing and lithography were delivered in the government printing establishments; the plastic arts were lectured upon in the potteries and casting houses in the neighbourhood of the town, and the lectures on metallurgy were given in the dockyard. A well furnished library and news-room are attractions to the members.

AUSTRALIA.

South Australia has not been neglectful in establishing Mechanics' Institutions. The *Mechanics' School of Arts* at Sydney, upon the plan of the Edinburgh school of arts, is very efficiently conducted, but it has been supported for some years by the funds of the local government. The legislative council of South Australia, has considered Mechanics' Institutions of so much importance to the well-being of the society over whom it rules, that it has fostered these Institutions with a liberal hand. The *Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts* has recently received a grant of two hundred pounds; the *School of Arts* at Brisbane, has received three hundred pounds; and the *Mechanics' Institution* at Melbourne, has been supported by a vote of one hundred and fifty pounds. These societies have now excellent libraries, and are rapidly increasing in members.

The Van Dieman's Mechanics' Institution has been established upwards of fourteen years, and has been aided by an annual grant of one hundred and fifty pounds awarded by the governor, upon condition that the subscriptions yearly reach the same amount. In 1841, a commodious lecture hall was added to the Institution, and upwards of twenty lectures, chiefly on scientific subjects, have been annually delivered during the succeeding ten years. The library contains about one thousand volumes, and the collection of philosophical apparatus is extensive, though little used.

NEW ZEALAND can boast of its Athenæum and Mechanics' Institute. A Mechanics' Institution was established at Port Nicholson, in 1842, with a library, reading-room, and lectures, and continued until 1844, when it was compelled to change its habitation. For a period of four years the society became dormant, but in 1848, it was revived with one hundred and thirty-five members, and an attempt was made to raise the necessary funds for erecting a building. On the 11th of April, 1850, the new hall of the Institution, now called the Wellington Athenæum and Mechanics' Institute, was opened. The design of the building includes two wings, one to be appropriated as a museum, and the other as the library. The principal or entrance front, is raised on a flight of steps, and consists of a portico of four columns, two coupled on either side; a recessed porch, surmounted by an entablature and pediment. A vestibule on either side leads to the hall, a spacious room forty feet long, by twenty feet wide, which is constructed of timber framing, lathed and plastered on both sides. The library contains upwards of five hundred volumes, the reading-room is well attended, and lectures are occasionally delivered.

Literary and Mechanics' Institutions appear to be extending to the remote regions of the earth, for they are now established in California, and even in the Sandwich Islands. At Honolulu, the principal port of the Sandwich Islands, a literary society, with its news-room and library, has recently been formed with every prospect of success.

"For my part, I shall suffer no man to say, within my hearing, without contradiction, that this expression of the popular desire for information is a passing rage, or fashion.—No, it rises out of the natural sagacity of the English mind, ripened by time and circumstances; and I boldly argue that the spirit of improvement now displayed, will be followed up with that steadiness which the world in its rivalship with us in arts and arms, has felt to be inherent in the English race."—*Thomas Campbell, the Poet, on Literary and Mechanics' Institutions.*

MECHANICS' AND LITERARY INSTITUTIONS IN ENGLAND.

Place.	Title of Institute.	Subscription.	Membrs	Vols. in Library.	Annual Issues	Pupls in Classes.	Newsrm Lectures, &c.	Secretary.
Bedford								
Bedford	Lit.& Sci.In	21/	85	200	400	..	L	J. Bull, jr.
Biggleswade	M I	..	72	300	100	..	N 6 L	T. Powers
Luton	Lit. I	21/	40	950	500	..	..	C.A. Austin
Berkshire								
Maidenhead	Lit. & M I	10/, 2/6q	170	680	1500	..	8 L	C. Brown
Newbury	Lit. & S I	21/, 2/6q	165	1200	3278	..	14 L	W. Gray
Reading	L S & M I	10/	400	2000	8100	120	M 10L	W.E. Alger
Wallingford	M I	21/, 12/	130	200	..	..	..	W. Wood
Wantage	L & S I	2/6q	50	300	..	..	N 6 L	J. Irving
Windsor	L S & M I	3/, 2/q	276	1050	2300	50	N 30 L	J. Atkins, jr.
Buckingham								
Chesham	M I	1/9q	80	150	450	..	N 9 L	T. Climpson
Nwprt.Pagnl	L & S I	6/	80	..	..	..	10 L	J. Ball
Wycomb	Lit. I	2/6q	78	400	500	..	N 5 L	S. Flexon
Cambridge								
Cambridge	M I	21/, 2/6q	229	2156	3000	..	N	H.H.Harris
„ „	Philo.Un. S	15/	160	1600	2600	..	N 6 L	J. Webb
Ely	M I	10/	121	1625	3200	..	2 L	W.Marshall
March	M I	20/, 10/, 4/	70	500	1000	..	N 6 L	C. B. Bates
Whittlesey	Institute	4/, 2/q	73	570	2420	..	N	J. Baker
Cheshire								
Altrincham	L I	2/q	121	800	2000	22	N 4 L	W.R.Wilde
Chester	M I	20/, 2/6q	363	4000	10630	100	N 4 L	J.E. Edwards
Congleton	M I	2/6q	171	..	..	..	N	F. Wood
Crewe	M I	..	182	1314	2000	163	N 7 L	W. Benzie
Dinting Vale	Library	½d week	50	100	..	..	N	
Dukinfield	Village Lib.	2/6 q	396	1700	5000	..	N	S. Robinson
Hollingwrth	Y M A	1d. weekly	22	72	..	20	..	S. Ridgway
Macclesfield	U K S	21/, 2/6q	570	2000	4000	30	N 6 L	D. B. Curwen
Middlewich	L & S I	10/6, 4/	105	1000	1700	..	N 4 L	M.Robinson,jr
Nantwich	M I	..	78	500	..	..	N	T. Prescott
Northwich	Institute	..	50	..	..	..	..	J. Hall
Runcorn	Church I	..	50	..	..	..	..	
Sandbach	L S I	2/ q	30	1050	680	..	N	J. Smallman
Stockport	M I	15/, 2/9	445	2537	10000	38	N 6 L	J. Gudgeon
Tarporley		..	70	new	..	..	..	
Tintwistle	Y M M I S	4/6	30	100	300	20	8 L	J. Hyde
Cornwall								
Altarnun	M I S	6d. q	23	20	..	..	12 L	R. B. Hicks
Bodmin	Lit. I	21/, 2/6q	73	800	1200	..	N 12 L	H. Drew.
Camborne	Dif. U K S	2/6q	85	1009	1069	19	12 L	W. B. Smith
East Looe	M I	5/	90	..	..	..	..	T. Gill
Falmouth	Polytech. S	10/, 5/	380	..	..	..	..	W.W.Rundell
„ „	Athenæum	2/6q	180	500	1800	20	N 20 L	W. Burne
„ „	M I	2/6q	190	800	2500	..	N 20 L	C. Pascoe
Grampound	Lit. I	5/, 3/, 2/6	42	30	..	..	..	T. Gerrans

Place.	Title of Institute.	Subscription.	Members	Vols. in Library.	Annual Issues.	Pupils in Classes.	Newsrm. Lectures, &c.	Secretary.
Cornwall								
Launceston	Mut. Inst. S	20/, 6d. q	101	160	450	..	25	R. Hayne
Liskeard	Inst.	15/, 8/, 5/	263	716	2000	..	N 24	E.Chapman
Newquay	I	2/, 1/ q	40	new	..	..	N	N. Marshall
Penryn	Institute	2/6 q	120	260	800	..	N 10	J. Tucker
Penzance	Lit. I	1/1 q	353	..	..	..	26	H. Pascoe
" "	Institute	2/6 q	174	310	810	12	40	W. H. Rodd
Redruth	U K I	1/6 q	134	406	4758	42	16	W. M. Grylls
Saltash	I	2/6 q	54	60	200	..	13	T. Littleton
St. Agnes	Miners' M I	1/6, 1/ q	35	210	500	..	N 8	J. Opie
St. Columb	I	2/6 q	30	250	600	..	8	W. Truman
St. Ives	Lit. I	2/6 q	100	500	..	..	N 10	H. Harris
St. Just	Institution	2/6, 1/6 q	60	500	1000	..	N 25	O.E.Trezise
St. Stephen's Comb	I	5/ q	20	16	100	..	18	Brokenshire
Torpoint	L & S I	..	50	..	..	..	..	J. Crosdil
Truro	Lit. & Sci.	16/, 10/, 6/	400	900	4800	30	N 30	H. H. Davis
Wadebridge	Lit. & Sci. I	21/, 10/, 5/	71	560	600	..	N 16	J. Wilkins
Cumberland								
Alston	M I	8/	35	542	263	..	Mus. 3	J. Holme
Brampton	M I	2/6, 1/ q	104	378	1000	..	N 2	Cheesbrough
Carlisle	Lit. & M. I.	8/, 5/	416	2739	8196	100	N	J. Morrison
Cockermouth	M I	5/	150	550	1550	20	8	T. Tolentine
Keswick	Y Men's I S	1/1 q	30	350	600	15	..	P. Harrison
Maryport	M I	5/, 3/6	150	..	..	..	N 7	J. Adair
Penrith	M Lib.&R.R.	10/, 4/	120	1550	2000	..	N	J. Graham
Whitehaven	M I	10/, 5/, 4/	191	1000	3500	..	N 15 M	W. Bagg
Wigton	M I	21/, 8/	123	1300	2800	..	N	C. Barnard
Workington	M I	10/, 5/	211	565	2120	..	17	H. Gladders
Derby								
Ashbourn	Newsroom	20/, 12/, 6/	100	1000	1500	30	N 15	J. W. Lister
Bakewell	Peak In.	21/, 10/, 1/6q	158	870	1000	20	N 20	F. Parker
Belper	M I Lib.	1/3, 1/ q	65	700	1200	..	..	J. Brown
" "	M Lit. Soc.	1/ q	150	900	2500	..	..	J. Ball
Chapel-le-Frth	Imp. Soc.	..	50	50	100	20	6	
Chesterfield	M I	20/, 10/, 6/	146	1663	3250	..	N	A.T. Blythe
Codner Park	Artizan's L	..	60	350	900	..	3	A. Morrell
Derby	M I	20/, 2/6q	392	4657	10000	35	N 9	J. Walker,
Glossop	M I	1/ q	67	609	750	35	7	P. Sidebottom
Melborne	People's Col	..	60	..	..	50	N 6	
Devon								
Barnstaple	L & S I	7/6, 3/ q	326	3100	6300	20	N 20	J R.Chanter
Bideford	L & S I	5/3, 2/6 q	100	..	..	..	N	W S.Rooker
Chudleigh	Lit. Soc.							
Colyton	M I S	10/6, 6/	70	170	500	10	N 6	D. M. Stirling
Crediton	M I S	1/ q	141	630	1800	40	12	J. Bickford
Cullompton	M Imp. Soc.	10/6,7/6,5/	50	..	..	..	N 12	JC.Mitchell
Dawlish	L K Soc.	1/6, 1/ q	164	300	500	..	12	J. S. Hodge
Devonport	M I	5/, 2/6, 2/q	837	3000	18000	100	N 50	R. C. Smith
Exeter	Lit. Soc.	3/, 1/6 q	650	1300	2000	140	N 40	F. Channon
" "	S & L I	3/, 1/6 q	250	..	..	..	35	B. Blake

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Devon								
Honiton	Lit. I	10/	55	800	1588	..	N 12	T. Botten
Kingsbridge	L & S I	8/, 5/	50	100	200		M 28	W. Jarvis
Modbury	L & S I	6/6, 4/	60	600	500	..	..	W. Cornish
Newtn Abbot	U K S	2/ q	140	500	1500	..	20	C. Rees
Ottery	Mut.Ins.So.	free	50	..	..	49	16	A.Sheppard
Plymouth	M I	3/, 2/ q	800	2000	20000	..	50	L. Jewitt
" "	Wrkmn'sAs	1d. week	100	..	..	..	..	J.Bottomley
Stonehouse	L & M I	2/6 q	250	550	1500	50	32	W. Roberts
Tavistock	L & S I	2/6 q	180	..	..	..	14	R. Luxton
" "	M I	1/ q	100	600	2080	..	N 12	J. P. Brown
" "	Mut.Ins.So.	1d. week	50	..	..	..	..	
Teignmouth	U K S	1/6, 1/	180	600	1500	..	18	M. Procter
Tiverton	L & S I	21/, 12/, 6/	150	700	1800	20	N 16	G.W.Cockram
Torquay	M I	1/6 q	120	900	4000	6	50	W.Pengelly
Totnes	M I	2/, 1/6 q	80	750	1000	10	14	W. Oldrey
Dorset								
Blandford	..	..	50	..	..	..	..	
Bridport	M I	21/, 8/	111	1500	2000	..	2	
Corfe Castle	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	
Dorchester	Lit. I	..	50	..	..	..	N	E. Billows
" "	County Mus	10/	91	300	..	..	M 6	W. Barnes
Poole	L S & M I	10/	220	900	2000	..	N 20	J.Bloomfield
Sturminster	L & S I	1/6 q	40	300	1000	.	14	T.E.Spinney
Wareham	M I S	2/6, 2/ q	97	264	1080	26	N 20	J. Langdon
Wimborne	S A K	5/	102	519	1200	..	19	J. Housden
Durham								
Barnard Castle	M I	1/6 q	70	..	..	..	..	
Bishp Wermth.	M Ap. Lib.	3d. week	70	600	1100	50	..	Cunningham
Blaydon	Reading R	6/6	90	200	..	..	N	J. Hawdon
Castle Eden	Lib. & R R	4/	63	350	1400	20	N	H. Barras
Chestr-le-St.	M I	1/6 q	54	751	317	..	6	J. Owen
Crook	M I	5/	50	300	500	..	14	J M'Lachline
Darlington	M I	1/3 q	350	1438	7390	..	N 8	H. Dunn
Durham	M I	1d.&2d.wk	350	2000	6000	40	N 15	J. Duncan
Elswick	L & M I	1/6, 1/ q	35	250	550	..	N 4	J. Wayman
Etherley	M I	4/, 3/	60	350	600	12	3	T. Greener
Ferryhill	Lit. S	1/ q	62	331	1050	..	N 10	T. Bland
Gateshead	M I	10/, 8/	349	3000	6500	..	N 10	T. Clapham
Hamsterley	M I	1/ q	21	484	800	..	..	T. Joplin
Hartlepool	L S & M I	2/6 q	100	500	2500	10	8	W.Johnston
Ledgate	Polytech. I	3d. week	50	100	..	20	N 6	J. Hays
Middlesbro'	M I	8/, 6/, 4/	477	750	7328	..	N 8	W. Taylor
Pittington	L & S I	1/ q	80	310	1560	..	N	T. Thompson
Sedgefield	I L & S	1/6, 1/	92	296	4116	12	N 8	W. Lowes
Shildon	M I	1/ q	100	650	1500	..	N 10	J.B. Thorp
Shotlybridge	M I	6/6, 1/6	60	300	614	30	8	T. Dunn
SouthShields	M I	6/	150	1500	2500	..	..	W. Nevison
Sunderland	L & Phil. S	24/, 12/	337	6000	14500	..	N 14	T.W.Johnson
West Auckland	M I	9d. q	40	350	400	..	N	J. Moses
Westgate	Weardale L	6d. q	35	1294	1500	..	N	J. Muschamp

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Durham								
Winlaton	L & M I	4/6	90	1400	5350	50	8	J.Cowan, jr.
Wolsingham	Lib.	6/	48	520	1200	..	..	A. Ferguson
Yarm	M I	1/ q	30	..	..	..	N	R. Baker
Essex								
Braintree	L M I	10/6, 4/4	255	1066	3950	..	N 9	H. Smith
Chelmsford	L M I	2/ q	750	1500	13100	150	N 24	
Coggleshall	L & M I	2/6, 1/3 q	121	350	918	30	N 8	THammond
Colchester	M I	16/, 8/	200	1500	3000	40	N 10	J.B. Harvey
Dunmow								
Halstead								
Kelvedon	M I S	1/ q	50	..	..	10	..	T. Moss
Romford	L S I	3/, 2/ q	72	285	1144	16	6	J. Linton
Saffron Walden								
Walden	L & M I	1/6 q	127	1052	272	..	N 8	W.K.Digby
Witham	L I	1/6 q	130	700	2500	15	12	C. Walford
Gloster								
Cheltenham	L. & Phil. I	25/, 21/, 15/	250	3000	2000	..	N 25	T. Williams
Gloster	Ath. & M I	2/6 q	110	100	..	..	N 4	J. Nash
„ „	L & S A	21/	175	2000	12000	..	N 7	T.B. Davies
Newnham	M I	..	50	..	..	..	..	
Stroud	Athenæum	2/6 q	46	300	231	10	N	G. Spire
Tewkesbury	M I	1/6, e 1/	120	350	900	..	10	J. Lawler
Hampshire								
Basingstoke	M I	2/ q	219	1200	5000	50	N 10	FWBusheli
Fordingbridge	L S M I	1/6 q	72	168	200	..	8	C. Chubb
Lymington	Lit. I	2/6 q	50	..	..	..	..	
Newport	Athenæum	2/ q	110	800	2000	..	N 12	— Pascoe
Portsmouth	L Phil. I	21/	100	..	..	..	..	H. Hobbs
„ „	Athen.	10/6, 8/	270	1500	9000	20	N 24	H. Lewis
Romsey	L & S I	42/, 30/	30	..	..	..	..	W. Dayman
Ryde	L & S I	2/ q	200	..	..	..	10	— Clements
Southampton	Polytech. I	2/ q	450	1200	8500	..	N 30	W. Wakeford
Winchester	M I	3/ q	384	2575	12300	84	N 20	R. Hayles
Hereford								
Hereford	M I	1/6 q	170	450	1500	..	N 8	R. Nash
„ „	Nat. His. LS	15/	150	100	..	..	N M 6	W.Gilliland
„ „	R A	1/6 q	300	1800	3100	20	N M 12	T. Day
Ledbury	M I	..	30	..	..	..	..	
Ross	Ment. I S	10/, 6/	36	500	1500	20	N M	E. Walwyn
Hertford								
Buntingford	Lit. I	1/6 q	75	..	..	..	8	T. Arnsden
Hitchin	M I	5/	164	956	1963	.	N 12	H. Newton
Royston	M I	6/, 4/	130	600	1500	..	N	J. Warren
Ware	I	1/6 q	200	250	400	100	N 20	H. Roberts
„ „	Read. Room	21/	60	450	1000	..	N	G. Price
Huntingdon								
Huntingdon	L & S I	20/, 1/6 q	180	1800	3229	..	N 6	G. M. Fox
St. Ives	Soc. U K	1/6 q	80	200	500	..	..	J. Davis
Kent								
Ashford	M I	3/3, 2/ q	135	800	2500	..	N 15	H.Whitfield

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Kent								
Benenden	Mut. I S	1/ q	43	400	500	..	N 5	T. Stanger
Bexley	S U K	5/, e 2/6	75	250	500	..	M 12	H. Davids
Blackheath	Lit. S	10/, 5/	350	3000	10000	..	N 15	G. Bennett
Bridge	Lit. & S As.	6d. q, e 1/	82	91	..	..	30	J. Kingsford
Bromley	Lit. I	2/6 q	177	1500	3500	..	..	S. P. Acton
Canterbury	L & S I	20/,10/,6/	127	2950	200	..	N 34	J W.Pilcher
„ „	Mental I S	1/ q, e 1/	50	300	1000	..	10	WJ. Austen
Chatham	M I	2/ q	130	2000	8200	..	N 23	G. Moss
Dartford	I	..	50	..	..	..	..	J. R. Smith
Dover	Phil. Instit	21/	100	500	..	..	12	—Rees
Faversham	L & S I	4/, 3/ q	110	650	2000	..	N 20	W. Maile
Folkstone	L I	10/6	50	..	..	.	..	R. Boarer
Gravesend	M I	8/, 6/	270	1500	2500	22	M 24	E. Langton
Greenwich	S D U K	10/, 5/	1200	7500	40000	84	N 48	D. Bass
Hythe	Reading S	6/6, e 2/6	50	800	1000	..	N 10	W. Vile
Maidstone	M I	8/	450	1000	3000	80	16	H. Dye
Margate	L & S I	31/6	101	2500	400	..	N 12	J. Poussett
Rochester	Phil.& Lit.I	..	150	2500	2000	..	M 6	
Sheerness	M I	2d. week	38	1000	3000	..	..	H. Roach
St. Mary's Cray	Ed. I	..	50	1500	2000	40	M	
Tenterden	Mutual I S	1/1 q	60	150	700	25	N	E. Winser
Tunbridge	L S Enquirs	20/, 12/	89	1600	2000	..	N 14	F. Cobham
Tunbridgewells	Lit. & Sci. I	31/6, 21/	70	1500	1500	..	M	W Maddock
„ „	U K S	21/, 10/6,5/	137	300	1000	..	11	J. Colbran
Woolwich	L S & M I	2/6, 2/q	360	1423	5296	11	N 30	J. R. Mutch
Lancashire								
Ashton	M I	2/6, 1/3 q	420	1890	8200	135	N	N. Howard
Bacup	M I	2/6q	102	800	1000	..	N	T. Aitken
Blackburn	M I	2/q	170	800	2000	..	14	J. Dean
Blackley	M I	2/, 1/q	57	248	147	55	N 12	J. A. Boyd
Bolton	M I	5/3, 2/6q	282	3657	11000	..	N	J. Beswick
Bridgehall	M I	...	90	600	900	..	..	
Burnley	M I	2/6q	280	3330	6550	257	N 8	J Sutherland
Bury	M I	2/6, 1/6q	280	1300	5050	90	N 20	J. Pomfret
Chadderton	Lit. I	2/q	28	90	..	..	..	C. Mayson
Clitheroe	M I	6/, 3/	110	1500	3015	..	N 9	H. Burrows
Colne	M I	1/ q	130	340	1232	20	N	J McGregor
Crawshwbooth	M I	building	..	..	..	..	..	G Crawshaw
Darwen	M I	1/6q	201	1750	4200	100	N 7	G Openshaw
Denton	M I	..	148	..	..	..	..	Mountcastle
Droylsden	M I	..	103	223	1000	40	N 8	J. W. Slater
Facit	People's I	5/,2/,1/6q	76	299	..	60	N	Shackleton
Failsworth	M I	2/, 1/6 q	40	224	1040	33	N	H. Crossley
Farnworth	M I	2/6, 1/6 q	126	390	840	52	N 9	J. Miller
Fleetwood	M I	2/q	142	570	..	20	N 13	I. Stanley
Haslingden	M I	2/, 1/6q	150	1000	..	..	N	
Heywood	M I	2/6, 1/q	145	400	7500	50	N 5	Scholefield
Hoddlesden	M I	1/3, 9d.q	28	130	300	24	N	B. Fish
Lancaster	M I	1/3q	250	3000	..	46	N 6	T. Stoney
Lees	Lit. I	1/9 q	130	160	300	..	..	

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Lancashire								
Leigh	M I	5/,1/6,1/q	172	1085	4668	76	N 4	T. Halliwell
Levenshulme	M I	1/6 q	50	546	1300	34	12	W. Aldred
Liverpool	M I	5/ q	*800	15300	40000	360	25	W. Nichol
" "	Northern	..	500	900	3000	5	..	Calderwood
" "	Bootle	..	120	650	2000	..	..	
" "	M Lib. and Brougham I	2/q	203	3500	10008	..	N	
Manchester	Athen.	6/6, 5/q	*1254	14000	51050	450	N 31	JW.Hudson
" "	M I	5 /q	*1614	13000	61234	660	N 46	Swinglehurst
" "	Ancoats L	2/, 1/6	125	3210	5000	500	15	JA Nicholls
" "	Hrpurhey I	1/1q	72	200	500	..	..	E. Pilling
" "	Salford L I	2/, 1/6q	178	2700	8000	68	N	PMRedfern
" "	MilesPlatting	2/q	154	2000	6187	50	N 17	E. Clough
" "	Rusholme I	..	50	350	700	..	N	E. Smith
Middleton	M I	3/, 2/, 1/6	134	400	2000	65	N	T. B. Knott
Mossley	M I	2/, 1/6q	40	750	700	6	N 4	J.N.Lawton
Oldham	Lyceum	3/, 2/q	355	1450	10500	225	N 4	J. Taylor
" "	Lowmoor I	1/6, 1/q	200	1200	4000	..	N	J. Platt
" "	Hartworks I	1/q	326	948	5000	..	..	
Ormskirk	L & S I	10/, 5/	56	320	400	38	N 3	H. Sharrock
Padiham	M I	2/6, 1/6 q	105	426	1882	70	N 16	Waddington
Patricroft	M I	1/6q	81	800	5000	..	N 10	G. Fuller
Pendleton	M I	3/q	84	..	..	56	..	
Pilkington	Parklane I	1d. week	72	220	..	36	N 8	E. Gregory
Prescot	Educatnl I	10/6	57	650	800	..	N	T. Martin
Preston	I Dif. K	2/ q	602	5000	18000	60	N 20	R. Grundy
" "	L & Phil. I	21/	200	4000	5000	..	18	J. Rolfe
Radcliffe	Mut. I S	1/6q	55	..	..	40	N	Dr.Thompson
Ramsbottom	Mut I S	..	150	..	..	80	5	
Rawtenstall	M I	2/q	160	1100	5000	..	N	WSalisbury
Rhodes	M I	..	80	600	..	..	..	T. Blune
Rochdale	Athen.	10/	150	1000	..	..	6	E. T. Jones
" "	People's I	2/6q	340	1100	2780	60	N 6	D. Simpson
Royton	M I	3/q	42	51	1000	40	N 6	J. Mellar
" "	Yth's. Sem.	2/q	65	100	1000	60	N	J. Shirt
Stalybridge	M I	5/, 2/q	150	1230	3200	51	N 8	F. Wood
Tyldesley	M I	1/6q	60	..	..	..	N	P. Bromley
Ulverstone	Athen.	21/, 10/6, 5/	160	1600	3400	45	N 10	T. Town
" "	Imp. S	..	124	400	1000	..	N	J. Blacklock
Warrington	M I	3/6, 1/q	400	3000	8575	174	N	G Brewtnall
Wavertree	M I	..	40	..	..	..	..	
Wigan	M I	1/6q	100	1100	..	30	M	E. Clarke
Woolton	M I	1/6q	100	600	..	..	N 8	J. Hamer
Worsley	M I	..	131	651	..	..	N	
Leicester	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Hinchley	M I	2/6q	60	450	500	20	..	G. A. May
Leicester	M I	2/6, 1/3q	502	3060	10500	50	N	T. Windley
Loughboro'	Lib. I	..	70	1000	..	..	..	B. Nicklinson
Lincoln	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Boston	M I	2/, 1/q	160	380	630	21	N 20	W. Veall.

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Lincoln								
Epworth	M I	1/q	30	..	..	..	..	T. B. Pearson
Gainsbro'	M I	2/6 q	40	1400	1000	..	..	S. Cuckson
Grantham	Phil. I	2/6q	200	700	2100	..	1	T. Winter.
Grimsby	M I	2/q	110	1000	2000	..	N	J. Bennett, jr.
Horncastle	M I	2/6, 1/6	100	1250	2500	..	N 6	W. A. Rayson
Lincoln	M I	20/, 2/q	333	5000	17000	40	M 5	R. Goodacre
Louth	M I	2/, 1/q	200	3000	5000	..	N	
Sleaford	M I	10/,7/6,5/	96	560	..	..	N 7	
Spalding	L S	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Stamford	I	21/, 10/	207	1000	2000	..	N 6	J. F. Bentley
Middlesex								
Brentford	M I	3/6, 2/6 q	140	1250	4500	..	N 10	W. Whitman
" "								
Hackney	Lit. I	..	..	..	..	..	..	H. Sharpe
Hampstead	Lib.	2/6 q	150	3000	5000	..	N	H. Sharpe
" "	Artizan's R	2/ q	40	50	..	20	N 2	J. S. Godfrey
Highgate	L & S I	21/, 3/, 1/6	210	2745	4510	..	N 16	J. Yarnold
Kentishtown	L I	2/6, 1/6, 1/	260	1300	3000	25	N 25	B. H. Starey
" "	Lit. S	10/ q	..	..	..	..	N 15	
Kensington	..	10/ q	190	..	..	..	..	
London	M I	6/ q, e 2/6	599	6000	10000	150	N 70	A. Mc.Farlane
" "	City L & S I	42/, 14/ q	700	10200	24200	200	N 50	G. Stacy
" "	City M I	7/6 q	250	3500	2000	104	N 50	J. Robinson
" "	Whittington	42/, 14/ q	*1510	2300	11400	220	N 60	W Strudwicke
" "	Westminstr	6/, 3/ q	598	6000	9500	200	N 52	J. King
" "	Marylebone	42/, 21/	400	6000	10000	100	N 40	R. Weir
" "	Beaumont	21/ q	276	4000	13000	40	N 30	W. Passmore
" "	Jews L I	7/6, 5/ q	400	4500	10520	100	N 30	M Oppenheim
" "	Russell I	42/	700	16000	..	..	N 24	W. Brayley
" "	Islington	42/	500	..	..	..	N	J. Wilkinson
" "	Finsbury	..	100	..	..	..	N	J. Dodson
" "	Red Lion Sq	..	50	..	..	..	..	R. Ridgway
" "	West L Chlsea	24/, 14/, 12/	333	700	3000	50	N 20	W. Hill
" "	Pimlico	3/ q	64	400	1000	42	N 30	J. Cooke
" "	Cripplegate	1/6	78	1570	1505	40	N 12	J. M. Wade
" "	N. London	1/6 q	72	375	500	25	10	J. F. Betts
" "	London I.	30/	800	60000	..	..	..	E. Brayley
Poplar	L & S I	2/6 q	90	1400	600	10	30	T. E. Bowkett
Staines	L & S I	7/6	100	500	1000	..	15	J. Hodson
Tottenham	L & S I	10/	144	760	500	16	N 15	S. Howard
Uxbridge	Y M I S	2/2 q	80	300	500	..	N 12	W. Baynham
Monmouth								
Chepstow	Lit. I	1/3 q	96	..	..	..	N 3	W. Davis
Monmouth	U K S	1/6 q	20	..	..	..	N	W. Watkins
Newport	M I	2/, 1/ q	303	850	3000	..	N 16	J. Jayne
Norfolk								
Diss	L & S I	12/6	40	950	2000	..	..	E.C. Nunn
"	Lib	42/	30	1500	1000	..	..	R. Fincham
"	Frmrs' Club	2/6	80	..	..	..	L 1 0	E. C. Nunn

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Norfolk								
Lynn	S. of Arts	5/	150	..	..	50	20	R. Cruso
,,	I	2/q	320	200	..	..	N 6	J.Hardment
Norwich	Lit. I	31/6	312	12000	22500	..		J. Quinton
Norwich	Athen.	3/ q	335	2000	8000	50	N 6	G. B Everett
Yarmouth	Y M I	3/6, 2/6 q	113	455	1988	..	N 12	J. Barber
Northampton								
Kettering	U K S	2/6, 1/3 q	40	..	..	..	N	J.Stockburn
Northamptn.	Athen.	25/	100	..	..	..	N 10	G. Baker
Northamptn.	M I	2/6, 1/6 q	600	9000	25000	..	M N 6	W. Rice
,, ,,	U K S	2/6, 1/ q	300	2500	5000	100	M	P. Phillips
Peterbro'	M I	2/ q	140	1200	2000	..	NM 10	J. Ruddle
Towcester	L I	2/6 q	54	..	..	..	..	R. Watkins
Wellingbro'	M I	1/, e 1/6	80	600	1560	40	N 8	T. S. Curtis
Nrthumbrlnd.								
Alnwick	S M I	21/, 5/	150	1000	3000	..	N	G. Tate
Bedlington	M I	1/ q	100	..	..	..	N	J. Angus
,, ,,	Walker's I	1/ q	300	..	..	..	N 6	T. Fothergill
Bellingham	M I	1/6 q	50	500	860	..	N	G. Turnbull
Blyth	M I	1/6 q	90	1400	2000	..	N 2	J. Chaneton
Corbridge	Lib. & R	1/6 q	90	500	1000	..	N	J. Lowney
Haltwhistle	M I	1/6 q	47	880	685	..	N 15	R. Maddison
Haydonbridg	N & Lib.	3/ q	46	750	800	..	N 6	M. Cowing
Hexham	L & M I	2/, 1/ q	207	1686	4193	30	N 2	J. Ridley
Howden	M I	1/ q	90	400	1600	..	2	J. Robinson
Morpeth	M I	2/6, 2/ q	162	2267	5000	..	6	W Creighton
Newcastle	L S & M I	3/, 1/6 q	747	8252	28080	100	N M 2	J. Thornton
,, ,,	Arthurshill I	1/ q	100	new	..	..	N	G. Mc.Kelvin
,, ,,	Nelson-st. I	1/ q	100	new	..	..	N	
Northshields	M I	2/ q	235	2000	8000	..	N	C. Ramsay
,, ,,	Tynemth.Lib.	21/	100	4000	3000	..	N 20	Dr. Dodd
Ovingham	R S	1d week.	20	391	500	..	4	—Vacant
Nottingham								
East Retford	L & S I	10/6,1/3q	200	..	..	..	..	Dr. Hall
Edwinstowe	M I	1d. week	50	50	150	..	4	
Mansfield	Lib. & R	2/, 1/ q	190	1400	3000	..	N	J. Booth
Newark	M I	1/6, 9d. q	255	1943	7000	122	N 7	G. Bennett
Nottingham	M I	1/6 q	815	5000	3300	..	N 17	E. Renals
Oxford								
Banbury	M I	2/, 1/ q	150	1400	3000	40	N	W.A. Potts
Rutland								
Shropshire								
Bridgeworth	M I	1/ q	120	350	750	..	N 8	J Whatmore
Ellesmere	I	6/	45	200	..	33	8	G.H. Smith
Ludlow	L Ass.	2/ q	80		..	..	..	G. Cocking
Oswestry	Y M I	1/6 q	120	200	700	..	N 11	C. Minshull
Shiffnal	M I	10/	87	250	1000	12	N 9	B. Beddow
Shrewsbury	M I	10/, 5/	209	1500	3000	60	N 15	W. Scoltock
,, ,,	L & S I	..	80	..	..	..	..	H. Newman
Ironbridge	M I	1/6 q	45	540	1050	8	1	W. Evans
Wellington	M I	10/, 5/ q	180	750	3250	180	6	S. Ellis

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Somerset								
Bath	Athen.	3/, 2/ q	150	3500	4700		N	T. Fisher
,,	Com &Lit.I		100		..		N	
Bridgewater	L & S I	3/, 2/ q	150	1000	..		N 40	C. Thompson
Bristol	Athen.	21/, 5/6 q	934	4000	21607	120	M 20	G. S. Bryant
,,	Y M S	2/6	50	250	500	40	N	J. Matthews
Frome	L & S I	21/, 10/6	120	2400	1200	..	7	G. Walters jr.
Ilminster	M I S	1/6 q	40	150	300	..		S. H. Collins
Taunton	M I	2/ q	150	500	1500		N	Montgomery
Wells	L & S I	21/, e 10/6	80	600	1000	..		W. Dore.
Weston	M I	2/, 1/	100	700	920	44	N 26	A. Brown
Yeovil	M I S	2/, 1/ q	156	400	1500	70	NM 12	J. Williams
Stafford								
Bilston	I	21/,10/,5/	600	200	1000	..	N 26	J. B. Owen
Burslem	M I	2/6 q	103	301	1150	..	N 10	J.W. Powell
Burton	Lit. S	5/, 2/2 q	150	750	1800	..	NM	W. Wesley
Cheadle	M I	2/6, 1/3 q	113	850	1800	..	N	F. Hordern
Great Bridge	M I	5/, 3/ q	50	460	600	18	N 12	R. Farley
Hanley	Pottery M I	21/, 2/6 q	160	2500	4500	50	M 20	J. Scott
Leek	M I	2/6, 1/ 3q	247	1250	4500	66	N 9	H. Brough
Longton	Athen.	2/6 q	140	750	4200	52	N 12	S. P. Goddard
Newcastle	L & S I	2/6, 5/ e	160	4000	10000	..	NM	F. Crewe
Shelton	M I	2/6 q	170	2800	3050	40	N 24	E. Brunt
Stafford	M I	1/6 q	140	500	1000	30	N 6	W. Ward j.
Stoke	Athen.	2/6 q	180	1400	2400	35	N 16	W. Dean
Tamworth	Lib. & R	21/,10/6,4/	166	1877	4000	..	1	E. Jones
Tean	L I	10/, 5/	70	660	1500	..	N 8	W. Jones
Tunstall	Lit. & R S	2/ q, e 1/	61	150	500	10	N	B. Tomkinson
Uttoxeter	L & S I	4/, 1/ q	222	850	5600	..	N 8	S. Udall
Walsall	M I	2/6,2/,1/6 q	40	800	600	..	..	W. Langham
Wednesbury	M I	5/, 2/6 q	107	1300	2500	..	N	S. Lloyd
WestBromwch	Soc. Adv. K	5/, 3/ q	89	1250	3200	..	N	J. Cooksey
W'hampton.	Athen.	2/6 q	260	..	..	..	N	J. Miller
Suffolk								
Beccles	Lib. & S I	20/, 10/	150	2000	1000	..	..	
Bungay	M I S	6d. q	22	10	..	10	4	P. Colbourne
BurySt.Edmds	M L & S I	21/,10/,5/,6	150	3000	7000	..	12	H. Barker
Ipswich	M I	2/6 q	550	5000	12000	60	N 20	H. Lawrence
Lowestoff	M I	1/ q	100	..	..		..	M. Hinde
Saxmundham	M I S	2d. week	30	..	..	..	N	T. Newman
Surrey								
Bermondsey	Lit. I	2/ q	150	500	1000	40	N 10	T. Henry
Camberwell	L & S I	31/6,10/6	243	2400	3717	12	N 14	J. Stackhouse
,,	Athn.	10/6, 8/	285	875	3596	72	N 20	W.B. Heath
,,	I. Indus. C	5/	97	..	..	30	N	S Westbrook
Croydon	L & S I							R. Russell
Egham	I & R	21/, 10/	86	175	300	..	N	T. Charlwood
Guildford	L & S I	2/6 q	250	2000	3500	..	NM 12	E. W. Martin
Reigate	M I	3/, 1/6 q	106	1000	2000	..	12	W. Stanley
Southwark	Lit. I	6/ q	500	5000	1500	157	N 40	B. Wheatland

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Surry								
Southwark	KRL & SI	3/ 2/ q	260	800	3500	100	N 20	J. Glover
Walworth	L & S I	2/6 q	500	2000	30000	100	N 26	J. Noldwrit
Sussex								
Battle	M I	1/6 q'	50	330	400	..	N 10	A. Slatter
Brighton	Athen.	21/ 10/6	732	3500	18000	150	N 30	A. Cobbett
Chichester	L S & M I	2/ 1/2	382	2400	4500	..	N 10	S. Parsens
„ „	L & Phil. S	21/	80	500	100	..	N	N. Tyack
Hastings	L & S I	25/	60	1600	..	..	M	J. Phillips
„ „	M I	2/q	150	1000	1500	50	M 15	J. Banks
Horsham	L & S I	3/ 2/6 2/ q	52	200	300	..	N	H. Chatfield
„ „	M I	..	50	..	..	..	..	— Harris
Lewes	M I	2/ 1/6 q	270	2850	5000	16	NM 10	D. Griffiths
Worthing	I	..	100	500	1000	..	10	
Warwick								
Birmingham	B S	2/6	100	400	800	20	N 10	I. Ford
„ „	Polytec.	5/ 4/ 3/ q	547	3500	11800	110	N 36	J. Gilbert
„ „	Athenic.	2/ q	90	440	350	20	N 6	W. Lovatt
„ „	P I S	1d week	500	1500	7000	200	N 20	H. Kirby
„ „	O F	..	100	..	..	..	N	F. Bromage
Coventry	M I	2/6 1/6 q	450	2000	..	..	N	T. Walker
Leamington	R L & S I	2/6 q	260	600	1800	12	N 12	H. Hapgood
Rugby	I	2/ 1/6 q	140	200	500	40	N	L. Jeayes
„ „	R M I	1/6 q	70	500	2500	30	N 4	J. Lea
Stratford	L S I	2/6 1/6 q	200	500	1500	..	N 9	J. S. Leaver
Warwick	Athen.	..	50	..	..	..	N	J. Heathcote
Westmoreland								
Appleby	M I	10/ 6/ 5/	88	716	1852	..	N	Whitehead
Kendal	M I	2/ q	126	1900	4336	50	N	J. Robinson
Wilts.								
Corsham	L & S I	2/ q	50	200	350	..	6	
Chippenham	L & S I	20/ 10	62	463	1170	..	NM 4	E. Bradbury
Devizes	L & S I	5/ 3/ 1/6q	204	880	1656	20	N 12	N. Randle
Malmesbury	M I S	2/6 q	92	900	2120	12	N 6	
Malboro'	R & M I S	2/6 q	100	..	..	..	..	G. Gregory
Salisbury	L & S I	10/ 6/	400	723	2000	50	N 18	C. Old
Swindon	M I	3/ 2/6 1/6	550	2070	1400	60	N 14	J. W. Cockle
Troubridge	M I	2/6 1/6 q	80	350	500	20	N 6	J. Diplock
Warminster	L & S I	21/	50	600	500	..	N M	vacant
„ „	Athenæum	2/6 1/6 q	200	500	1500	60	N 18	G W Clarke
Worcester								
Bromsgrove	L & S I	3/ q	108	282	400	..	N 12	T. Penn
Dudley	M I	..	50	..	..	..	..	T. Fraser
Evesham	L S & M I	2/ q	75	700	1000	..	N 10	H. New
Kiddermnstr	Athenæum	2/ q	31	1200	800	..	..	E. Guest
Pershore	M I	1/ q	85	225	1280	20	8	J. Bushel
Redditch	L S I	3/ q	144	252	782	..	N 8	A. Barker
Stourbridge	M I	2/6 q	232	1200	2000	55	N 10	E. Blurton
„ „	A A	1/6 q	100	..	..	20	5	H. Haynes
Upton	M I	1/ q	84	220	500	55	N 8	J. W. Read
Worcester	L & S I	3/ q	70	1500	1000	..	N	Turberville

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Worcester *Yorkshire*	C & C L	1/ q	120	800	..	..	N	T. Minchell
Ackworth	M. Lib	1/ q	50	550	500	..	..	J. Worley
Addingham	M I	1d. week	41	440	950	14	..	T. Whitaker
Adwalton	M I	2/, 1/1 q	62	187	462	45	N 6	S. Thornton
Almondbury	M I	2d. week	30	420	400	20	..	R. Field
Anstonley	S C	..	35	..	..	..	..	J. Beardsal
Armley	Y G C	½ week	144	1028	2624	..	10	W.Swithnbnk
Ayton (Gt.)	M I	10/, 5/	121	448	1700	50	N 9	G. Dickson
Brnoldswick	M I	..	30	..	..	..	..	A. Dean
Barnsley	M I	2/6, 1/6 q	364	1100	5670	100	N 20	T. Ross
" "	Franklin S	..	30	..	..	..	..	
Batley	L S	1/ q.	119	610	1036	..	N 2	C. Burnley
Bedale	M I	2/6,2/1/q	125	750	3640	20	N 12	J. Douglass
Beeston	Mutual I S	..	43	132	620	5	5	E Bellhouse
Berrybrow	M I	..	30	..	..	...	..	
Beverley	M I	2/61/61/q	276	1000	3000	20	N 12	J. Hinds
Birkenshaw	M I	1d. week	61	50	250	20	..	J. Ellison
Bingley	M I	1½d. week	358	840	6890	70	N 10	J. Heyworth
Birstal	M I S	2/, 1/6 q	52	260	1082	35	N 5	H. Brooke
" "	M I	..	35	100	..	..	..	
Borobridge	M I & L S	1/6, 1/ q	65	100	500	20	N 10	J. S. Turner
Boston Spa	..	2/6, 1/6 q	140	300	1500	..	N 21	J. Noble
Bradford	M I	2/6, 1/6 q	876	4757	24497	250	N 19	J. Dale
" "	Odd-fellows	1/6 q	269	439	3000	..	N 4	S. Parker
Bramley	M I	7/, 5/	83	680	3353	30	N 6	R. Wilson j.
Bridlington	M I	6/, 5/, 4/	70	400	200	..	N 10	T. Capes
Brighouse	M I	1/6 q	140	303	1753	60	N 6	G. Woodhead
Burley	M I	1/1 q	72	277	440	10	N 17	J. Mason
Calverley	M I	3d. week	120	287	1000	..	..	W.Cheethm
Castleford	M I	4/	96	230	808	25	N	J. Macvay
Churwell	M I	1/1 q	65	192	1100	40	3	T. Grove
Cleckheaten	M I	2/62/,1/6	60	650	800	40	..	W. Anderton
Cullingworth	L I	4/, 10/6	54	411	700	12	10	E Wadsworth
Denby	M I	1/q	50	400	500	..	N 5	W. Thorp
Dewsury	M I	4/4	100	500	1000	..	10	J. Hey
Dob Cross	Y M I S	..	50	..	..	20	..	
Dogley Lane	M I	1/1 q	60	260	937	25	N	W Whitehead
Doncaster	M I	3/, 2/, 1/ q	200	4200	21000	..	N	C. J. Fox
" "	Franklin S	½d. week	40	..	..	..	N 2	J. Grimshaw
Driffield	M I	1/6,1/31q	220	1050	6317	..	13	T. Whitaker
Elland	M I	1/6, 1/q	61	656	1000	20	N 8	A. Broadbent
Esholt	M I	..	30	..	..	..	..	J. Imbrie
Farnley	M I S	1d. week	16	100	250	12	..	J. Heywood
Farnley Tyas	M I	2d. week	51	150	728	62	N	J. Eastwood
Filey	M I	2/6,1/6 1/	40	300	300	..	N	W. Storey
Garforth	M I	6d. q	40	850	..	..	.	W. Morley
Gisburn	M I	1d. week	54	170	700	..	N 2	L. Crabtree
Gomersal	M I S	3/6, 2/	78	340	2300	30	N 30	T. Hirst
" "	M I	..	35	..	..	..	..	
Goole	L & S I	2/6 q	50	400	500	..	..	H. Wake
Grassington	M I	1/1 q	18	150	160	..	N 2	J. Harker

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Yorkshire								
Greetland	M I S	1/6 q	90	400	2600	58	6	J. Law
Guiseley	M I S	5/, 4/2	88	340	1833	20	N 4	A. Baldwin
Guisbro'	People's I	1/q	50	50	..	..	N 2	H.Wrighton
,, ,,	M I S	..	70	..	..	..	..	
Halifax	M I	20/10/8/8	551	3143	11920	120	N 5	W. Corke
Harrogate	M I	1/6, 1/q	150	900	6000	..	N 30	Hawksworth
Haworth	M I	1/1 q	111	446	3119	25	N 9	A. Sugden
Headingley	.	..	70	550	1500	..	N 7	Booth
Hedon	M I	5/, 4/	34	438	238	..	1	J. Mc.Dougld
High Green	M I	1/6 q	20	100	200	..	..	J.Chambers
Holbeck	M I	½d. week	143	1333	4440	60	N 6	R. Parker
,, ,,	Adult I S	1d. week	143	328	1550	100	N 1	P. Bernasconi
Holmfirth	M I	3d. 2d.wk	150	700	2000	70	4	S. Wimpenny
Honley	M I	3d. 2d.wk	137	545	2774	60	N 2	J.Lockwood
Horbury	M I	1/6 q	40	350	1560	25	6	W. Mortimer
Horsforth	M I	9d. q	45	242	530	..	N 3	J. Kitching
,, ,,	New M I	10/, 6/	50	400	4735	..	N 12	A. Ball
Howden	M I	1/6, 1/ q	180	300	500	..	..	
Hoyland	M I	1/6, 1/ q	42	276	530	..	N 1	J. Harrison
Huddersfield	M I	3d. week	887	1800	14000	650	N 12	G. S Phillips
,, ,,	Female E I	2d. week	140	500	300	97	7	W. Nelson
,, ,,	Phil. I	..	250	1850	5470	..	N	W Thompson
Hunslet	M I	2/,1/6 1/q	96	310	2340	..	N 9	R. Waite
Hunmanby	M I	2/61/61/q	46	235	750	..	N 4	T. Copley
Hull	M I	2/61/61/q	809	3312	17500	..	N 20	J. D. Sollitt
Idle	Mutual I C	..	50	200	..	20	..	
Keighley	L I	..	300	2010	10138	40	N 6	J. Sharman
Kippax	M I	1/q	70	254	892	10	N 6	C. Gummersn
Kirkburton	M I	1/q	70	320	500	69	N 3	A.Hargreaves
Kirkheaton	M I S	2/q	40	840	2400	20	3	J. Dyson
Kirkstall	M I	2/, 1/3 q	122	620	1649	50	N 5	J Haresceugh
Kirkby Mlzrd.	M I	1/6, 1/q	40	338	720	..	N 2	T. Hudson
Knaresboro'	L I	20/12,8/4	252	949	7500	20	N 3	J. Hannam
Knottingley	M I	..	..	..	..	..	..	T. Bywater
Leeds	M I & L S	15/,12/,8/	1852	7747	50758	301	N 42	J W. Traice
,, ,,	York-road	..	80	..	..	..	N 12	Briggs
,, ,,	Mutual I	3d. week	51	300	1000	40	N 19	J. Garside
Leyburn	M I	4/4	66	270	1750	18	7	W. Breeks
Lindley	M I	12/	94	220	320	50	N 6	J. Crosland
Lockwood	M I	1½d. week	63	293	719	25	1	J. Ashton
Longwood	M I	1/6	80	250	1035	60	5	D. Smith
Low Moor	M I	1/6 q	118	290	1556	85	4	
Longley	M I	..	50	..	..	..	..	
Malton	M I	2/61/61/q	165	2050	2000	40	10	M. Frankland
Marsden	M I	1½d. 1d.wk.	150	1100	2500	30	2	J.B.Robinson
Markt Wghtn	M I	2/61/61/q	100	300	800	..	N 15	J.Kirkpatrck
Masham	M I	2/61/61/q	140	523	2002	25	N 10	W. Jackson
Meltham	M I	..	151	178	767	80	5	J. Garlick
,, Mills	M I	2/, 1/ q	62	122	200	41	N 2	J. Heywood
Methley	M I	1/6, 1/q	21	300	571	..	13	J. Horn
Morley	M I	2/6, 1/q	173	450	1600	30	N 2	J. Asquith

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Yorkshire								
Netherton	M I	..	75	323	669	20	N 9	G. Dyson
New York	M I	..	50	750	..	..	..	
Northallertn.	M I	..	204	558	2290	20	N 18	RMiddleton
Norton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ossett	M I S	..	130	147	1600	40	N	P. Ellis
Otley	M I	20/ 10/ 5/	264	1100	7000	50	N 13	T. Metcalf
Pateley-brid.	M I	..	83	618	1768	15	N 12	TKettlewell
Penistone	M I	..	100	250	400	..	..	
Pocklington	M I	..	80	392	820	25	15	S. Hornby
Pontefract	M I	..	137	1132	1300	..	4	J. Robinson
Pudsey	M I	2d week	164	370	1200	100	N 5	J. Walker
Rastrick	M I	1/6 q	45	290	1250	..	16	C. Fryer
Richmond	M I	2/6 1/6 1/	136	678	2831	..	N 10	W. Pearson
Ripley	Lit. I	..	26	320	560	10	N 6	G. Elliott
Ripon	M I & L P	2/6 1/6 1/	224	683	2100	60	N 14	C. Walbran
Rotherham	T I	..	50	..	..	..	..	J. Guest
Saddleworth	M I	2/ 1/6 q	100	1180	3028	..	N 6	J. Schofield
Scarborough	M I	..	224	1804	7956	25	4	J. Rowntree
Selby	M I	2/6 q	135	504	2475	50	N 6	Liversedge
„ „	Peoples' I	..	30	..	..	..	..	
Sheffield	Athen.	6/3 q	300	500	1000	..	N	Hutchings
„ „	Athen.	25/	350	200	..	50	N	W. Smith
„ „	M I	..	334	2050	9000	300	44	C. Thomson
„ „	P C	1/q 6d wk	170	..	..	120	N 8	
Stokesley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Shipley	M I	8/ 6/	95	288	2720	40	N 6	H. Farrer
Skipton	M I	..	144	595	2500	50	N 16	G. Kendell
Slaithwaite	M I	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sowrby-bdge	M I	8/ 5/	100	1100	1400	..	..	W. Stott
Spofforth	M I	7/6 5/ 4/	50	140	948	16	N 6	E. Barstow
Stanningley	M I	1/6 1/ q	140	528	3400	30	N 2	J. Slater
Stainland	N R	5/ q	24	..	sell	..	N	J. Watson
Stockton	M I	2/61/61/q	300	1205	4019	25	N 14	Reid
Swillington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Thirsk	M I	2/6 q	126	500	2289	50	N 4	M.Milburn
Thorne	L S	2/6 q	47	..	..	..	9	J. Forster
Thornton	M I	1d week	280	320	2146	75	N 13	J, H. Bell
Todmorden	Athen.	2/ q	50	650	1500	..	..	R. Stephens
Topcliffe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Wakefield	M I	10/ 5/ 4/	576	3700	19400	70	N 27	J. Banks
Wentworth	M I	1/6 1/ q	69	917	1479	10	6	F. Moore
Wetherby	L I	5/ 2/6 1/6	100	750	4000	40	9	C. Barstow
Whitby	I	..	214	1300	3356	..	N 2	J. Taylerson
Wilsden	M I	1½&1d wk	244	1950	3748	80	4	J. Lewthaite
Woodhouse	M I	1½&1d wk	160	550	4000	100	N	G. Lucas
Woodlesford	M I	1/q	93	696	1920	30	N 15	J. Whitaker
Wortley	Y G S	..	150	1314	4700	..	1	H .Ingham
„ „	M I S	6d moth.	54	70	..	..	14	M. Sykes
Yeadon	M I S	1d. week	110	300	1200	100	N 8	Claughton
York	I P S	10/ e/ 3/	492	4059	20749	180	N 26	J. H. Fox

Place.	Title of Institute.	Subscription.	Membrs	Vols. in Library	Annual Issues	Pupils in Classes.	Newsrm Lectrs. &c.	Secretary.
Wales								
Almwch	L & S I	2/6 2/	50	750	500	..	12	C. E. Dyer
Anglesey	L & S I	20/ 10/	30	150	300	..	M 8	K. Prichard
Brymbo	M I	4/4 2/2	100	350	500	30	N 12	T. Morgan
Cardiff	Athn.	3/ 2/ 1/6q	272	1080	2000	..	N 12	T.H. Lowell
Carmarthen	L & S I	2/ 1/6	250	600	2100	50	M 10	A. C. Evans
MerthyrTydvil	M I	1/6 q, e 1/	134	1382	4200	..	N 12	T. Stephen
,, ,,	Y M I S	1/ q	96	..	..	50	18	W. Fuller
Neath	M I	2/6 q	96	809	2000	20	N 8	H.Williams
Newtown	M I	12/6	80	500	1000	..	N 3	D. Morgan
Swansea	Peoples' In·	1/6 q	140	300	..	50	N 10	J. Lewis
,, ,.	Lit. S	1/6 q	100	210	500	80	N 6	G. Jones
Wrexham	Wrkmn L I	2/6 1/6 q	124	724	2700	..	N 4	D. Jones j.
Guernsey	M I	3/ 1/6 q	309	3000	6000	..	M 12	
Scotland								
Aberdeen	M I	1/ q	459	2250	6000	340	N 20	A. Maxwell
Airdrie	M I	4/	250	370	650	..	10	R. Wands
Anan	M I	6/, 4/, 2/	140	660	4447	..	N 30	J. Simpson
Arbroath	M I		36	200	500	..		T. Geddes
Ayr	M I	6/, 3/	210	3350	8100	44	M 7	DCampbell
Banff	L S	2/ q	44	2500	5500	..	..	J.Williamson
Brechin	M L S I	3/, 2/, 1/6	400	1350	5000	..	NM 16	J. Smart
Campsie	M I	1/ q	150	100	..	30	N 20	W. Sheal
Carluke	U K S	1d. week	20	..	..	..	suspnd	D. Rankin
Coatbridge	M I	2/6	140	700	5000	..	..	J. Eddie
Couper Angus	M I S	1d. week	40	500	600	20	..	P.Ferguson
Dalkeith	Sci A	5/	70	130	400	..	6	A. Mitchell
Dumbarton	M I	2/ 1/	150	200	380	..	10	A. Thomson
Dumfries	M I		200	..	..	..	10	J. Smith
Dundee	Watt I	6/ 4/	100	3200	5800	..	..	A. Maxwell
,, ,,	Lit I	10/6	295	400	..	50	N	W. Puller
Dunfermline	Sci Asso.		50	..	..	..	10	J. L. Millar
Dunse	M I	2/6	80	..	..	..	..	
Edinburgh	Phli I	21/ 7/ q,	2035	5050	39800	..	N 42	H. Bowie
,, ,,	Schl of Arts	..	700	2000	3500	650	..	Dr. Murray
Falkirk	Schl of Arts	2/ 1/6	130	600	3500	..	12	G.Hamilton
Forfar	M I	4/	100	1200	..	..	..	J. Donald
Forres	Lit Soc	..	20	..	..	..	10	A. Webb
Girvan	M I	6d. q	50	400	..	..	..	M. Morton
Glasgow	Athn	6/6 q	1204	3700	20000	150	N 20	Mc. Kinnell
,, ,,	*M* I	21/ 10/6	600	6000	15000	500	N	G. Good
,, ,,	Calton M I	2/ q	500	2000	2250	40	15	J. Barclay
,, ,,	Cowcaddens	3/6 2/6	240	1400	3000	30	12	A. Cowie
,, ,,	Gorbals I	2/6	100	200	500	20	..	
,, ,,	Parkhead I	2/6 1/6	150	650	800	..	15	T. Macfeat
,, ,,	Anderton I	2/6	50	..	..	20	6	
Greenock	Watt I	21/ 13/	250	10000	7900	..	M 10	RNicholson
,, ,,	M I	1/6 q	600	2500	5000	14	N 12	D. Hogg
Hamilton	M I	5/	100	500	1350	..	14	A. Allan
Hawick	L & S I	1/ q	67	..	..	..	11	P. Laidlaw
Irvine	M I	6d. q	24	436	1500	..	..	J McAlister
Jedburgh	M I	3/ 2/	150	1000	5000	..	12	R. Oliver

Place.	Title of Institute.	Subscription.	Membrs	Vols. in Library	Annual Issues.	Pupils in Classes.	Newsrm Lectures, &c.	Secretary.
Scotland								
Johnstone	Y M As.	1/6 q	20		..	..	2	R. Young
Kilmarnock	Athen.	6/	350	..	..	..	N	J. Borland
„ „	Phil. I	4/ e 2/6	150	800	600	..	9	R. Robertson
„ „	M I	6d. q	80	..	..	..	..	A. Mc.Kay
Lanark	M I	..	70	.	..	..	..	H. Marr
Leven, Vale of	M I	..	220	400	550	..	15	D. Bell
Levern	M I	6/	60	1200	2000	20	10	J. Shaw
Milngavie	M I	6d. q e 6d	78	650	2500	..	8	H.Carmichael
Montrose	Lit. S	6d. year	100	..	..	..	20	J. Niven
Paisley	Athen.	15/, e 2/6	200	..	..	..	N 15	R. Stewart
„ „	Artizans I	8/, e 1/	445	250	800	200	N M 25	D.Campbell
„ „	M I	8/, e 1/	200	500	1600	50	N 15	A. Arthur
Rothesay	Y M I	1/	50	..	..	..	N 12	W. Wright
St. Andrews	L & P S.	10/6	53	..	..	..	M	J. Cook
Sterling	School of A	4/, 2/	450	1250	1500	..	N 10	J. Christie
Stonehaven	Lit. I	1/ q, e 1/	75	1316	4000	..	4	A. Clark
Stranraer	M I	suspend	..	..	..	..	..	W. Sproat
Wishaw	Sci. I	1d. week	50	..	..	..	6	J. Marshall
Ireland								
Ardee	M I	..	150	600	500	..	20	J.O'Rourke
Ballymoney	Y M S A	..	35	500	200	..	25	W. Orr
Belfast	M I	10/, 5/	Susp	..	..	..	..	Grimshaw
„ „	S prom. K	21/, e 21/	200	10000	1000	..	N	J. Ridley
„ „	Work C Ass	2/6, 1/6 q	960	750	1000	..	N	Montgomery
Castle Bellingm		..	30	..	..	..	6	
Clonmel	M I	2/6, q	50	..	..	..	10	J. Cuddihy
Cork	Royal I	21/.	270	12000	4000	..	N 6	W.O'Logan
„ „	M I	2/6, q	90	800	1000	..	N 12	W. Kelcher
Downpatrick	M I	1/6, q	130	300	700	..	N 12	Montgomery
Drogheda	M I	2/6, 1/6,	150	250	500	30	N 20	W. Leonard
Dublin	Lib. S	21/.	500	20100	2000	..	N	J. Raper
„ „	M I	2/6, q	250	4000	1000	.	N	C R. Mahoney
Dundalk	M I	10/, 6/, 3/	204	1800	3750	22	27	J. Brown
Dungannon	L S	10/	60	300	100	..	N 16	W. Nevill
Ennis	M I	..	50	..	..	..	..	M. McNamare
Galway	M I	2/6, q	160	50	36	30	N 6	R. M. Gill
Garvagh	Y M I	..	20	100	..	..	10	R Robinson
Kilrea	Y M I	..	20	100	..	..	10	G. Becknell
Limerick	I	40/.	160	4200	9000	..	N 6	R. Anglim
Newry	I	3/6, q	120	400	600	..	N 10	C. Jennings
Portaferry	M I	1/6 q	16	550	5000	..	..	J. Wallace
Tuam	M I	..	30	..	..	..	..	
Waterford	M I	2/6, 1/6 q	300	1000	4000	100	N M 20	J. G. Davis

SIGNIFICATIONS. — M. I. Mechanics' Institution. M. I. S. Mutual Improvement Society. L. & S. I. Literary and Scientific Institution. Y. G. S. Youths' Guardian Society. U. K. S. Useful Knowledge Society. Y. M. I. Young Men's Institution. P. I. Peoples' Institute. * The number of Members, exclusive of Life Members. q Paid Quarterly. N. News-Room. M. Museum.

Place.	Title of Institute.	Rate of Subscript.	Members.	Departments.	Secretary.
England Provincial.					
Ashburton	Geo. Soc.	..	50	..	
Birmingham	P S	31/6	74	..	
Bristol	P & L I	42/	334	M 12	S .S. Wayte
Cambridge	Ant Soc	21/	106	M 6	C. J. Elliott
Falmouth	Polytec Soc	5/ to 42	370	..	W. Rundel
Hull	L & P I	25/	300	M 20	J. Dossor
Lancashire	Historic Soc	..	300	Itinerates	
Leeds	P & L I	21/, e 63/	240	M 20	W. S. Ward
Liverpool	L & P S	40/6, e 10/6	180	14	F. Janiwicz
,,	Polytech S	11/	170	..	C. F. Salt
Manchester	L & P S	21/, e 42/	250	Essays	H. H. Jones
,,	Nat His S	10/6,e 10Gs	600	M 8	J. Owen
,,	Geolog S	20/	180	M	J. Lingard
Newcastle	L & P S	..	150	..	J Adamson
,,	N H & A S	21/, e 42/	70	M 10	E. Charlton
Oxford	Ashmol S	21/, e 21/	330	M 6	R. Walker
Penzance	Geolog	21/	180	M 10	L. R. Willan
,,	N His & An	10/	98	M 10	J. Millet
Plymouth	Ath & Ins	21/	150	M 20	W.H Prance
Portsmouth	L & P I	21/	100	Essays	H. Hobbs
Preston	P I	..	200	3500 vols	J, Rolfe
Scarbro'	P S	..	100	M	J. Dunn
Sheffield	L & P I	42/, e 42/	200	M 8	W. Lee
Shrewsbury	N His & An	21/	75	M	H. Johnson
Sussex	Arhælogical	10/	174	M	W. H. Blauw
Torquay	..	..	50	..	W. Pengelly
Worcester	N His S	21/	200	M	G. Reece
Whitby	L & P S	42/,e 10/6	120	M	R. Ripley
York	Yorksh P S	42/, e 63/	300	M 8	T. Meynall
Yorkshire	Geolog S	10/	350	Itinerates 6	W. Thorp
Wales	..	..	..	..	
Neath	P I	21/	40	M	H. Gwyn
Swansea	Royal I S W	21/	120	Large library 30	D. Nichol
Wales	Archaeolog A	..	211	Itinerates	H. Jones
Scotland	..	..	..	..	
Aberdeen	P S	..	30	6	J. D. Milne
Berwick	Naturalist C	7/	50	Itinerates	G. Johnston
Edinburgh	Wernerian S	21/	120	10	P. Neill
,,	Antiq.	21/e 42/	200	M 15	W. Turnbull
,,	Geolog.	10/6e 10/6	50	M 10	J. Brown
Elgin	Sci. A	..	35	..	
Glasgow	P S	15/ e 21/	250	Library 12	A. Hastie
Kelso	Antiq. S	10/6	100	M	J. Douglas
Orkney	N His. S	2/	150	M	W. Stobbs
Paisley	P I	..	..	Suspended	J. Waterson
Perth	L & Antiq S	10/6e 21/	100	M	W. Brown
Stonehaven	Nat His S	3/	111	M	D. Yule
Ireland	..	..	..	..	
Belfast	N His & P S	10/	250	M	J. M'Adam

Place.	Title of Institute.	Rate of Subscript.	Members.	Departments.	Secretary.
Cork	L & S I	..	60	..	W. Whitelegg
„	Cuverian S	10/	40	M	F Jennings
„	Archælog S	..	50	..	J Wyndell
Dublin	UnivrstyPS	10/	80	10	D. C. Heron
„	Geolog. S	20/e 20/	160	M 8	R. Ball
„	N His S	20/	120	6	W. Andrews
„	L & S I	..	50	..	Dr. Todd
Killyleagh	L & S I	..	30	10	Dr. Kincks
Londonderry	N H S	10/	50	M	
Waterford	L & S I		100	M 20	W. Maclean

Learned and Royal Institutions, and Societies for the promotion of the Fine Arts, as well as the London Scientific Institutions, are omitted from this return.

APPENDIX A.

EXTRACTS FROM THE WILL OF PROFESSOR JOHN ANDERSON, M.D.

I give, grant, dispose, and convey the whole of my other property of every sort to the public, for the good of mankind, and the improvement of science, in an institution, to be denominated "Anderson University," and to be managed by eighty-one trustees. These trustees are appointed by me, in order to manage an University, or *studium generale*, for the improvement of human nature, of science, and of the country where they live, and they are earnestly requested to accept of the office conferred upon them, for these three reasons; This institution, is called an university, because that word has long been entirely appropriated to a literary body, and for the purpose of giving degrees; whereas, though the word college is often applied to a literary body, for the education of youth, yet, it is likewise often applied to bodies, the object of whose institution is the mechanical arts, or health, or commerce; and many other things totally different from learning. This new institution therefore is called "Anderson's University." It is to be under the management of the eighty-one trustees above described, and to comprehend four colleges besides a school or an academy. These four colleges are the college of arts, the college of medicine, the college of law, and the college of theology. * * * Besides a course of physical lectures, another course shall likewise be given by the same professor, at least once every year, to be called "the ladies course of physical lectures," in which no mathematical reasoning shall be used, and it shall be similar to the course above mentioned, but with this difference, that the audience shall consist of both ladies and gentlemen; the time of the year, the days of the week, the hours of the day, the honorarium, and every thing relating to it, shall be appointed by the trustees, under the direction of the ordinary managers. The intention of this course of lectures, is, that the ladies in Glasgow, may have an opportunity, for a small sum, and in the early part of life, of being at several of these courses of lectures, by which, their education for domestic affairs will not be interrupted, no pedantic language will be acquired, as is often the case in a more advanced age, and such a stock of general knowledge will be laid in, as will make them the most accomplished ladies in Europe.

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